

GREY DUST

DEDICATION



**TO MOTI, MY PAL, WHO NEVER ASKS ME
A QUESTION '**



BABURAO PATEL

Editor

FILM INDIA.

GREY DUST

By

BABURAO PATEL



Compiled & Edited

By

SUSHILA RANI PATEL, M. A., L T.



SUMATI PUBLICATIONS

55, Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Road,
FORT, BOMBAY, INDIA.

First Edition May 1949
Second Edition June 1949
Third Edition July 1949

All rights reserved by the author.

Correspondence should be addressed to the publishers.

SUMATI PUBLICATIONS, Fort, Bombay.

Printed in India by P. C. Mathew, at the Associated Printers,
Mount Road, Madras. Published by Sumati Publications,
55, Sir Pheroze Shah Mehta Road, Fort, Bombay, India

CONTENTS

	PAGE
1 AMERICA IN 1948	243
2. ART	183
3 BEAUTY	123
4 CRITICISM	163
5 FILM STARS	141
6. FRIVOLITY	169
7. GENERAL	185
8. LIFE	37
9. LOVE	1
10. MARRIAGE	19
11. MEN	69
12. PERSONAL	207
13. PHILOSOPHY	109
14 POLITICS	223
15. RELIGION	133
16 SCREEN AND STAGE	151
17. SEX	127
18 WOMEN	78
19 YOUTH	131

P R E F A C E

In 25 years of his stormy and dynamic career as a journalist, Mr. Baburao Patel, editor of "filmindia" must have written well over ten million words on various subjects.

Known all over the world as one of the best film critics of the day, his "Editor's Mail" in "filmindia", in which section he answers thousands of questions from readers every year, provides a unique treasure of wise and witty comment on various subjects like life, love, men, women, philosophy, religion, art, beauty, marriage, sex, youth, politics etc.

In a periodical like "filmindia", primarily devoted to the intelligent criticism of the film as a new form of art and social purpose, all this treasure of wit and wisdom would have been lost, had it not been collected and classified in a book like the present one

We have been wanting to do this for a long time but like every scholar and recluse, Mr. Patel himself proved unco-operative and would not for a long time even hear of publishing what he termed as "old writings". We are, however, grateful to him for not stopping his talented wife from compiling and editing his "old writings" when we requested Mrs. Sushila Rani Patel to do so.

The immense volume of material and the versatility of the writer made the work of compiling and editing extremely difficult and yet we feel that no one but Mrs. Sushila Rani Patel could have done this job better, knowing as she did the mind and mood of her versatile husband through long association as a companion and secretary.

And yet we shall gratefully welcome all constructive suggestions to improve the scope and contents of the present book with a view to incorporate such suggestions in the subsequent editions.

SUMATI PUBLICATIONS.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in Maswan, a village 70 miles from Bombay, on the 4th of April 1904, Baburao Patel belongs to the Banjara community of agriculturists. His father, Mr. P. V. Patel, was the first to leave the village in search of education and adventure. Through struggles and hard work, he soon became a lawyer and is considered today a brilliant and successful Advocate of the Bombay High Court.

Baburao Patel seems to have inherited the brilliance of his father in logic and rhetoric, for, after a scrappy academical training, he took up journalism as a profession and made his mark in it right from the beginning. Adopting the film as his specialized field of work, he soon became the foremost film critic of India and is today considered the father of film journalism in the country. His witty comments and at times scathing criticisms have been regularly reproduced by leading newspapers and periodicals all over the world. His magazine, the "filmindia", has been described as, "the most exciting film paper in the world—with an enviable degree of frankness and gaiety in journalism which conveys a warm sense of contact to readers in other countries," by no less a person than Mr. John Grierson, the father of the British documentary films.

Baburao Patel has written photoplays, directed and produced several films and distributed them. He went on a world tour in 1939 and delivered a series of lectures on India and her ancient culture in Europe and America. His crusade against anti-Indian films produced by foreigners stopped further pictures vilifying India. His ceaseless campaign against bad pictures produced in India led to a new production code with strict restrictions in film censorship.

A devoted student of history and literature Baburao Patel's approach to life is yet practical and versatile as will be seen from the contents of this book.

LOVE

Is love-sickness something like sea-sickness?

Oh, no, there is a lot of difference. In sea-sickness you vomit—in the other one you swallow—anything.

What do you think of a kiss?

A resting stone on the ever-trembling journey of desire. It is at once a breather and a teaser.

Which stage of love is most enjoyable?

The stage where the play is enacted without an audience.

Please tell me which is the 'heart beat' among the following:—a kiss on the lips, a kiss on the cheek, a kiss on the hand, a kiss on the neck and a kiss on the forehead?

If the hearts are in tune a kiss in the air can produce thunder inside.

What is the climax of love?

A quarrel, and the kiss is its anti-climax.

What is platonic love? Is it play for him and tonic for her?

It is pickle for him and tickle for her.

What is puppy love?

Love that doesn't bring pups home.

What would you say if an old man falls in love with an old woman?

An old corny foot is happier in an old loose shoe.

What is love? Is it an art or an instinct?

It is an impulse at its birth, an emotion in its youth and an ache in its old age.

Can love sickness be cured?

Love is an infectious disease and though one might be vaccinated several times, there is always the danger of getting a mild attack if the germ is powerful.

Which is more embarrassing: kissing a miss or missing a kiss and why?

Kissing a miss is sometimes embarrassing to the miss. But missing a kiss is a crime.

What is the difference between love and romance?

Love is the liquor, romance is its effervescence.

What does a heart-throb signify?

An attractive woman within 100 yards.

Can a man be happy when he falls in love with a girl?

Falling is risky. If he slides in gradually he has a better chance.

If love is blind what are lovers?

Blind beggars with hearts as bowls.

Were the germs of love, in the widest sense of the term, present in Adam and Eve as well? Can they be called originators of love?

Adam and Eve didn't have to profess love, they practised it having no competition.

Does love-making require study or experience?

It requires only a raw heart which heats up like an electric stove no sooner you switch on emotions.

Is love-making an act or an art?

It is essentially an emotion in which there is both art and act.

What is platonic love?

It is a rehearsal with wrong lines for the right act at the end.

How many kinds of kisses are there?

Every love has a kiss of its own in addition to the conventional ones which are wasted on railway stations or given to the brides by the best men.

Who excels in love: a mother or a wife?

Love runs in the direction of milk.

How would you like to be always in love and not marry at all? Wouldn't it be great fun?

That would be constant roasting without ever getting ready for the table.

What is the capacity of love?

Heartful inside, brimful in the eye and harmful to the purse.

How do you differentiate between calf love and adult love?

In calf love there is plenty of noise and giggling. Adult love has poise and dignity. The first one is a nuisance to the neighbours, the second one an assurance

What is a sweet kiss?

A violent provocation!

Why do young men portray their so-called love the arm round-the-waist way?

The waist is a ticklish spot and love is a ticklish emotion.

What is the food of love?

Love is a glutton and needs a constant meal of selfless devotion and service.

How to demonstrate a perfect kiss?

By delivering it in secrecy.

Please tell in plain words, what is meant by 'love at first sight'?

Desire, first and last.

Is kissing an art or a craft?

Kissing is an emotional breather. Turning it into an art or a craft would turn men into gigolos.

What are the uses and abuses of love?

The use of love is marriage and the abuse is divorce.

What is the difference between a woman's love and a man's love?

A woman's love brings crying cradles to a home. A man's love builds a roof over them.

What is the twentieth century meaning of love?

A fashionable argument for an old-fashioned purpose.

Which is preferable: love at first sight or gradual growth of love?

Love is a lightning that strikes, not a tumour that grows.

Why is 'honeymoon' so called?

Because the moon drops honey on the lips of the lovers when they meet.

What is the perfect dose of love to be taken at a time?

Love is one potion you can't drink too much of. Let the heart overflow with it and there will always be enough for every thirst or malady.

Do sweet kisses sent through love letters remain sweet for ever?

They are hygienic anyway.

Is love a remedy or a malady?

A malady requiring its own virus as a remedy.

Is death possible from love-sickness?

Not without the help of a good dose of opium.

What is the taste of love?

Pleasant if the tongue is not coated with passion.

Which is easier, to live or to die for love?

Dying is a matter of a moment while living is a struggle of years Which is a better tribute to the beloved?

How is it that a girl always prefers to talk to the man she loves in seclusion while in the presence of others she avoids him?

Love is a lonesome game and not a foursome affair.

Is platonic love also prompted by the sex urge?

Platonic love is the first shiver of sex.

Why do lovers prefer dim light to a bright one?

People who indulge in a blind luxury need darkness to thrive.

When both know their love for each other, who should be the first to move in the matter?

The one in a hurry!

Tell me the taste of a stolen kiss?

If it is a sample of the future consignment it has a fragrance of love but if it is a blackmarket job it has the sour smell of desire.

Is kissing an art?

If it succeeds in its purpose

Why do lovers choose gardens as meeting places?

Because the trees around are dumb and can't sneak.

What is the difference between a hug and a squeeze?

The first is a general gesture, the second a personal one.

In my case, a smile of a college girl means a hole in my purse!

In your father's purse, you mean.

How is one to know if one is really in love?

Take a thousand-mile railway ticket and stay out for a month. If there is no tick-tick inside, there is no lover outside.

What is the difference between a slap of love and a slap of anger?

Love gives a pat and not a slap.

What is the difference between love at first sight and love at second sight?

At first sight infatuation, at second sight deliberation.

When is love lovehest?

When it is just love—without any strings.

What happens when a college girl falls in love with a married man or vice versa?

The college looks like a Montessori class to the girl and the home becomes a boarding house to the man.

Which is the lovers' tryst in Bombay?

In olden times they went to the gardens and took fragrance from the flowers to woo their sweet-hearts. Nowadays lovers buy a bottle of perfume and go to a Municipal refuse dump to make the night more dark and lonely.

Has heart got age?

In its ache is hidden its age

Can a man love God without courting a woman?

He can also do it while courting one.

What must a girl do when her lover threatens to commit suicide every now and then?

Give him a chance once. The every-now-and-then variety of romantic blackmailers live up to an old age.

What does love mean to Cupid?

A jest for his arrow.

When I kiss my husband, he says I sound like a vacuum cleaner. How can I rectify this?

Ask him to kiss you.

What are we to do with old love letters?

Destroy them at first sight. Old love letters contain a conscience which has grown whiskers—too uncomfortable for present purposes.

What would happen if, kisses were to leave scars?

Lips would be fitted with rubber insulators.

Which is of a more enduring nature: sex love or mother love?

Sex love is the parent of mother love. When sex takes the shape of mother, love becomes timeless.

How many stages are there in love?

Rash, temperature and death, meaning: meeting, courting and mating.

'Love is a part of wisdom'. Comment.

Wisdom for the onlooker.

What is the taste of a kiss?

A kiss takes its flavour from the quality of the heart

Is love sweet or sour?

Depends on what you bite.

Can a woman love two men?

Yes, her father and her husband and three if you put the brother in.

Would you care to let me know the ways of trapping a girl?

To the fishing rod of your character, fix the bait of sincere love and see if you get a bite.

What is the difference between a widow's love and a maiden's?

A maiden's love is warm and emotional, the widow's should be hot and synthetic. The first should thrill, the second should satisfy. Love itself is a maiden emotion.

What is the best season to make love?

When there is blossom in the heart and spring in the feet.

Why do some lovers seek ancient ruins as the best place for wooing?

Perhaps in the ruins they see the future shape of their love. The lover is a sadist who bleeds the heart to give the tears more taste.

How should one combat disappointment in love by violence or non-violence?

Love is a game of emotions and emotions are rarely non-violent

Is there any piece of literature which can satisfy a man who is really in love?

Love needs only the beloved for Braille reading.

Why do we dislike the exhibition of love in public parks?

Love has to be stolen to be romantic. Romance is not a circus turn for the gallery.

Why are lovers so blind?

Desire is a cataract which only saints can remove and not surgeons.

If kiss, according to you, is a 'resting stone on the ever-trembling journey of desire', what is embrace?

Half-way house!

When does Cupid become a villain?

When his shafts hurt and turn dreams into nightmares.

Love is independent of caste, creed and colour. Why?

Because it is tied to the apron strings of sex.

Should I see the Taj Mahal only in the company of my beloved?

The Taj Mahal is a symbol of a royal lover's fanaticism in love. It is a monument of selfish love to build which thousands sweated day and night for years. Though beautiful in architecture, there is nothing ennobling about it seeing that a crazy king immortalized his bed of pleasure by a mausoleum in marble.

Is the intimacy of a male teacher and a female pupil dangerous?

Not if it leads to matrimony.

If love is a priceless blessing, what is passion?

Its effervescence.

As I have been jilted very cruelly in love once, I intend remaining a spinster. What is your advice?

No man in the world is worth a life-time of spinsterhood. One jilt calls for another. Forget the cad and marry someone who will help you to build your future. The first jilt is always a good jolt to wake up the fighting spirit in a woman. And when a woman fights back she ends by building a home. The jilts and jolts of life should push you forward and not pull you back. For ahead, round the corner, is the proverbial life which the world is trying to live

What is the difference between love in olden times and love in present times?

In olden times love sighed and often died in its cloisters. In the present days love spits and is often coughed out on beaches

Why do people love when they know that love's ultimate result is often separation?

One can't be all-wise about love. Love is a spontaneous emotion which comes straight from the heart and suffers no limitations of thought. It's a flame that burns while it warms. And the ultimate separation is an inherent aspect of it seeing that what burns must destroy one day. Nevertheless, love often provides a strong incentive to human beings to raise themselves to spiritual heights of nobility and sacrifice. When separation comes, as some day it must, it brings in its wake an agonising ache of memory which while it hurts, strangely enough, also soothes the heart. Only in one human emotion, love, is embedded both the ache and the soothe at once.

Do you think that love is an essential thing in life?

Love is needed every minute. Sometimes, one chews the bitter part—the jealousy end—and life becomes miserable for a time. But all told it is a glowing emotion which warms and inspires one to action.

How long does a romance usually last?

Romance is the symphony of two souls in ecstasy. When you hear a note of discord, the players are banging the wrong key.

What is the definition of love?

Love is an emotional ecstasy which often dissolves itself in tears.

Is deep affection different from love?

In affection there is reason and often a motive while love is wild and unreasonable. Love is a volcano while affection is only a heater. Lovers die while affectionate people live to tell the story.

If 'God is Love' and 'Love is blind', what is Satan?

"Love with Sight".

Why do lovers usually choose gardens for their meeting places?

Probably to steal from the flowers the fragrance which is missing in them.

If a girl loves one person but is engaged to another, what should she do?

Elope with the one she loves. That is a better risk.

What is the relation between love and personality?

Personality is the altar and love is the incense burnt at it.

The course of true love never runs smooth. Why?

The lovers have parents whose eyes are blinded by the ashes of their own romance.

When love is denied what should one do?

Steal it.

What are heaven and hell in the realm of love?

Merely different hues of emotions!

What is the difference between a lover of the 20th century and one of the 18th century?

No difference! Lovers are as idiotic today as they used to be then.

How is love measured?

Different days, different ways! In old times lovers died for each other and gave the world the exact measure of their love. In present times, the system of reckoning keeps constantly changing. You have to count the cinema shows jointly attended to harness the darkness to give some sunshine to puppy love. You must ask the moon for an inventory of what was seen from above in dark spots, garden seats, country lanes, motor cars etc. You must read the tell-tale faces of the parents of both the parties. Their pathetic helplessness betrays the agony of an age. You must observe the hands of the Romeos to see if their fingers are tough and if there are corns on their palms to find out whether they have been massaging the legs of the Juliets. This is a favourite pastime of lovers these days. Working girls have young vagabonds from rich

families waiting in the sun in the afternoons on pavements with packets of sandwiches under their arms to step jointly into a restaurant and break the bread together. And last but not the least, count the perfumed letters exchanged between 'Romeos' and 'Juliets' to know the dividend modern love is going to pay.

What is interim love?

Love without law and order.

What should a person who has failed in a love affair do?

Love again. Love is a Robert Bruce story.

Are wooden bridges always necessary for love-making?

They look picturesque and love making is a picturesque game.

What is the climax of love and what is its anti-climax?

Honeymoon is one end and the cradle is the other.

My heart is stolen, Mr. Patel?

Good! Don't try to recover it You will be a happy man now.

What does love mean to a prostitute?

A mirage in an arid desert of lust.

Why do couples find the moonlight so vitally important for their purposes?

It has light that throws attractive shadows and gives romance a rainbow without sunlight.

What is the difference between the love of a spinster and that of a wife?

The love of a wife is warm like a meal. That of the spinster is like the warmth of a blanket. The first one enters the heart while the other warms up only the extremities.

Is kiss merely a teaser?

Not always! It is often a courtesy.

Hate is like a loaded gun What is love?

A perfume spray!

Do lovers sing duets whenever they meet in life as is shown on the screen?

If they did, crowds would throw pennies and love would come to an abrupt end. In life, lovers need whispers and not songs.

It is better to have loved and lost. What does it mean?

It means just 'lost' and not loved. There is no sense in pursuing a losing game.

What is it like when a long separated couple meets together?

Time stops and the world suddenly becomes too crowded.

What happens when a lover kisses his beloved for the first time?

The beloved starts believing him from that point onwards.

Does man love but once? Is it true that when death takes away from man his first love, he never really loves again?

Man never loves anything so deeply and so long, least of all a woman. His very struggle for existence through ages has made man an inconstant creature of circumstances. To him the struggle of life is more important than any emotional indulgence like love. He has to live in a mess which we call the world and he needs all his wits all the while to do so with some measure of success. To him love is a relaxation a spare time occupation at the most.

Solitude is bliss to lovers and thieves. Why?

They can steal without being caught.

Is it the mental contact or the physical contact of the lovers that makes their love glow brightly?

One without the other is like a wick without its flame. Love must be lit up to give warmth.

What is the beginning and end of love?

Love begins with a mist and ends with a tear.

Why is love like a black market article with all its transactions carried out hurriedly and secretly away from the rest of the world?

Love can never be a black market transaction, though it often needs stealth and darkness, for the very simple reason that its profits come crying overground.

Does devotion pay one in the long run in modern times?

Devotion is an incense at the altar of love. It gives love a fragrance which even the gods love.

Can love be burnt?

Love can be turned to ashes with the fire of jealousy.

What is the difference between love and attachment?

What you give to the dog is attachment but what you shower on a cat is love. There is a cat and dog difference between the two these days.

When does love become a monotony?

Marriage is love's monotony.

Is love a man's habit or is it only a sentiment?

Love is a man's argument, a woman's illusion and a poet's theme.

What is the definition of a kiss?

It is whispering conspiracy between two pairs of lips.

Why do lovers prefer moonlight for their honeymoon?

In the moonbeams are the dew drops of romance which while they cool the furnace yet feed the flame

Passion is likened to a flame. Why?

It burns both the wick and the wicked.

When one falls in love with a fiery and beautiful girl, can he be happy?

If he is a baker by profession, fire won't scare him.

When the moon is almost gone, how do the lovers feel?

With the last moonbeams goes the final vestige of restraint and darkness soon lends realism to romance.

Is there anything special about a medico's romance?

It ought to be aseptic at least if not actually smelling of disinfectants.

What does romance mean to a widow?

Spring after a spell of winter!

I loved, laboured and now lost. What should I do now?

Begin the cycle all over again. One day you will lose yourself and feel that you have won.

When is love's labour lost?

When the beloved ushers the still born.

Does a romantic person necessarily live in a dream world?

In a dream world there are no dinners. Even romance needs two square meals a day to keep the hearts on fire continuously.

When does love become septic?

When mouths become foul and eyes look lingeringly outside the window.

Does the so-called 'pure love' exist in this world?

Yes You find it only in the wagging tail of a dog.

What is love without sight?

Married love!

MARRIAGE

Is marriage a leap in the dark?

Oh no! No one stops married folks from using day light.

What is the aim of marriage in U S.A., Russia and India?

The aim is fun. When they miss the aim, they get a cradle to carry. Then it is no longer fun. It is the same in Iceland

How to choose a good husband?

Tap the heart and the hubby will fall out like a chocolate from the slot

Which is more hateful a cot with bugs or a life with a nagging wife?

The bug takes only a drop of blood while the other one churns the entire blood bank

Is marriage quite necessary to become husband and wife?

Absolutely, to practise as professionals in society.

Your theory that marriage is a mere convention compromises the sanctity of our social customs. Pray, how do you solemnise love?

By intense sincerity and absolute loyalty! Do you think that muttering priests can join human hearts?

When should a man marry?

When he is ready to contaminate the neighbourhood.

Does marriage make a man go ahead in life?

If multiplication is progress, he usually runs headlong

Why do married women ridicule spinsters looking for husbands?

Spinsters are late-fee packets that miss the regular clearing. It is the rush to catch the mail that excites ridicule. Girls should marry at their most attractive age or drop the idea altogether.

What is the idea of playing music in a marriage?

The tom-toms announce to the world the launching of a new private enterprise.

What do you think of husbands who have 'another establishment'?

Blackmarketing sex!

Is a husband the custodian of his wife's soul?

Not of her soul!

Don't you believe in women being independent and working for a living or are you an advocate of marriage for women?

Marriage is also working for a living. Men haven't begun feeding the women in bed yet.

Why are some married women more immoral than virgins?

Married women have licensed wombs, while virgins await social sanction.

Why do people wear wedding rings?

It is a dog collar for the wedded—a proof of loyalty that rarely exists.

What is marriage?

A public confession of a private profession.

When exactly does a bed of roses turn into a bed of thorns?

When romance sheds its rosy tint and starts crying in a crowded cradle.

Can you give me one real argument for marriage?

The woman you get.

What should a husband do if his wife always gets the last word in any argument?

He should swallow the last word, walk out to the garden and vomit it.

Is marriage only a personal affair or a social matter?

A strictly personal affair after the ceremony.

Is love marriage a successful marriage?

Yes! The lovers quarrel successfully and successively.

Is it safe to marry a divorced woman?

Well, she can teach a few things to a new man. That's a gain.

What does a love marriage lead to?

To a symphony of two ending in a chorus of little ones.

How long does the bride continue to be a bride and the bridegroom as a groom?

Till the constipation of the guests passes off.

Should marriage be treated entirely as a biological necessity?

It can be a biological extravagance.

What sort of husbands are especially liked by obstinate wives and why?

Obstinate women like sparks out of life and for that if one is flint, the other must be steel.

For what particular design were our marriages intended?

Seeing the net results, it seems that they were intended only to contribute to our largest national asset—population.

Don't you think that marriage is a furnace where more heat is generated every day?

I thought it was an oven from which little buns fell into the cradle.

Is it a sin to love a married woman?

Then husbands would be sinners all their life.

When is a honeymoon actually over?

When the moon sets and the honey dries up.

If the bride and bridegroom have different mother tongues, how happy will they be during their honeymoon nights?

Honeymoon days have nights of hurry. Talking is a pastime of leisure and there is plenty of time for it in married life when you can talk each other's ears off.

How to switch off an angry wife?

That depends on the reputation a man has built up for himself in the past. If he has been hen-pecked, then he should lie quiet like an egg. If he has been a he-man, there won't be an angry wife.

When should one go for a second marriage?

When one prefers the pinch of a new shoe to the comfort of the old one.

Can you suggest the best way to control a male in the house?

Let him run wild. He'll get tired and sit down.

Can a man who marries a flirt be happy?

If he knows how to flirt with his wife and keep her busy.

How to keep a husband at home?

Tie him to the heart with strings of love.

What is marriage without true love?

Love or no love, marriage is still a two-in-one partnership for turning out children.

If marriages are performed in heaven, what is the significance of their performance on earth?

They are evidently arranged in heaven but performed on earth, otherwise the priests would be unemployed.

Is marriage a bed of roses?

On the first night when they spread roses on the bed without the thorns. After that married people grow their own roses and thorns.

When do love affairs take the shape of marriage?

When love wants to cry and grab the feeding bottle.

Is monogamy impossible?

It is legal, anyway.

A lover once asked, "I neither want to die nor want to live. What should I do then"? Suggest what he should do?

He should marry. That is the state of being the living dead.

Is the perfect husband one who never looks at other women?

And looks at his wife always.

Why do people in love often declare that they have a glimpse of heaven?

Because in wedlock they get too many glimpses of hell.

What do you think of marriage via the letter box?

Marriage is a gamble whether under the mistletoe or through the mail box.

How should a newly married bride call her husband?

She doesn't need to call him. It is difficult to keep him away in the early days.

How long does a man love his wife after the marriage?

Love gets its lease from the woman's youth and wisdom.

What tempts educated girls to an unsuitable marriage?

The selfish instinct to own a bread-winner and acquire easy security.

What is a child wife?

An early symptom of a future malady.

What is the difference between the Indian system of marriage and the English system of marriage?

So long as the purpose is the same, the different systems don't matter.

Should one marry without a bank balance?

Never! It is a double suicide.

Are husbands necessary?

To the uneducated Indian girl brought up in old fashioned homes—yes. To the modern educated one—no. She needs a mate, marriage or no marriage. In India, the word 'husband' has been a symbol of woman's bondage through ages. And yet every woman needs a man—call him husband, mate, friend, pal or pet.

Do you believe in the so-called love marriages?

I believe in love and in a love marriage or love without marriage. But in marriage alone, I have no faith.

Should love end in marriage?

Love is a strange flame which needs all the freedoms to keep it burning. In the four walls of a home the flame often goes out and only the smoking wick remains.

What are your ideas about bigamy among men?

I condemn bigamy in love for I feel that the relationship between a man and a woman should be emotionally honest

Why does a love marriage appeal more to the new generation?

It provides a better chassis for life's rugged travel.

What according to you is the best age for marriage?

When eyes thirst and begin to look longingly at the neighbour's window.

What is the action to be taken by husbands when their wives take to hunger strikes?

Leave them alone. They like a good meal.

Why do wedlocks in our country turn into deadlocks?

Because the partners don't take into their homes love-locks as mascots.

Does perpetual contact lessen the love of two souls?

Not if both the parties add up only the good points of each other.

At what stage of life does a wife love her husband most?

When the marriage starts running up new liabilities in the cradle

What do you think of a husband secretly stealing a kiss from his wife?

A good traveller who will reach his journey's end with a smile

How should a husband remove the doubts of a prejudiced wife?

Wifehood is a prejudicial profession. Don't aggravate matters by trying to improve it.

What is your idea of a happy married life?

Life with some one who shares both the smiles and the sighs.

How to choose a good wife?

It is a blind gamble which needs luck.

Having a beautiful wife is a sign of danger ahead. Do you agree with this?

No! If the woman is good and the neighbours are not bad, a beautiful wife becomes a delightful companion. Marriage needs good neighbours to be happy.

A husband wants everything to be done by his wife. Only then he is pleased. Why?

A wife is not so much a woman as a habit and a habit is second nature.

Do you like union by Civil Marriage or the Vedic way?

In the Civil Marriage are sown together the seeds of both unity and separation. Very often it is like planting one tree and gathering the fruit of altogether another. The Vedic marriage is a bond of eternal unity meant for a life-time of love and happiness.

What change does marriage bring over a person?

It brings the future much nearer than ever before.

How is it that a woman worries about the future until she gets a husband?

He takes up from where she leaves and carries the worry to the grave.

How do you define the 'pain of love'?

The dawn of motherhood!

Does it pay for a girl to over-estimate her lover?

Marriage is a result of over-estimation and divorce a sequel of correct assessment.

In England and Western countries, wives call their husbands by their names. Why don't Indian women do the same?

In the West, women marry friends whom they know by name. In the East, women marry strangers who step into the husband's profession without even a nod of consent from the wives.

Is divorce immoral or mere fun?

Divorce can't be mere fun seeing that the other party is seen in other arms soon after.

After your marriage didn't you go to Mahatmaji for blessings?

I went to my grocer to acquire his goodwill.

← *How does a mother feel when a child starts crying at dead of night?*

She is afraid of waking up the brute by her side.

What to do if the wife's tongue is as sharp as a knife?

Make it cut the daily bread.

If men marry because they are tired of flirting and women because they are curious, then why are they both disappointed in the end?

After courting and curiosity come the baby and the 'bania'—one crying for milk, the other crying for his bill.

What happens when a young lady understands a young man?

He holds the baby and she goes marketing.

Can a woman think herself noble enough when she is married?

Marriage lends status even to a harlot.

When is a marriage said to be successful?

When the wife doesn't wish to live a minute longer than her husband.

What is the most important factor of domestic happiness?

Harmony in likes and dislikes.

Diagnose and prescribe treatment for heart-ache?

Marriage cures the ache. Children break the heart

What is the difference between a pet animal and a housewife?

The pet listens and is loyal The other one nags and frets and fumes.

How do you measure the beauty of your wife?

By the smile on her face and harmony in our home.

What light do the matrimonial advertisements throw on the state of society as such?

That there is hoarding in certain places and shortage in others and that the distribution is not well regulated.

Is marriage a boon or a curse in these times?

It is a misfortune that hits you in the dark and mocks at you during the day.

A girl has refused at least four offers of marrying a man she does not care for. She happens to be critical. Then may I know whether the one who marries her will be the most fortunate?

A critical maiden makes a hyper-critical wife and that does not contribute to the good fortune of the man

What is the real object of marriage?

In India it is mathematical—just simple multiplication.

What is romance without moonlight?

Married life!

What do the tears of a bride indicate?

Affection for the past and an appeal to the future.

What does marriage mean to a cynic?

Taking a partner in misery.

What advice would you give to a young couple who are planning to get married? I refer particularly to their attitude towards each other?

Love and trust each other and march arm-in-arm towards their destiny with a smile on their lips and caution in their steps.

Why do educated men like to marry educated girls? Why not educated men marry uneducated girls and try to educate them?

Marriage itself is a school in which men learn and there is no time to teach.

A man aged 25 loves a woman aged 45. Is it not true love?

If it is true today, its truth will vanish gradually with years. Twenty years later the difference between them will be a thousand years.

Why is a wife so particular about her wedding anniversary, while the hubby is so forgetful about it?

To the wife a wedding anniversary is a celebration of her conquest. To the man, a memory of his Waterloo.

What is the most important event in a man's life?

Marriage! It turns his life inside out.

What job would you suggest to a woman?

Managing a man is a job of a life-time.

Which is the best season for marriage?

When desire is in blossom and dreams disturb sleep.

Too much friendship leads to quarrel. Why?

When you come too close to anything you see the rough surface. That's why most of the love marriages fail. Marriages succeed only when both

the parties learn to love even the defects of each other.

What should a wife do if her husband always cherishes the memory of the girl he wanted to marry?

Be deaf and try her best to meet the idiot half-way.

After marriage, can the wife find out the past of her husband?

If the man has a past he becomes a more interesting husband. It is wiser to take the present dividend than draw on the old capital.

Which proves more irksome in the long run—an educated wife or an uneducated one?

There is some chance of teaching an educated wife but with an uneducated one, the husband has to do all the learning.

Why does a woman, once she gets married, back her husband in preference to her parents, even against her better judgement?

To the married woman, the husband is all the future while the parents constitute the past. It is wise to look ahead and back the man who is her destiny.

Is there any way to cure a love-sick man?

Marriage is a great cure-all. It removes the tumour of love in a jiffy.

✓ *If every man runs after a beautiful girl what should an ugly lass do?*

A woman is never so ugly as to be on the shelf all her life. Strangely enough, the ugly ducklings get married more quickly than the beautiful dolls.

It is not an easy job to marry a beautiful girl. Apart from being expensive, marrying a beautiful girl is a severe responsibility, more so to a middle class man who has to live in the midst of neighbours. Beauty in woman is a liability on man. Ugly women need not be disheartened because man primarily marries sex. Other considerations come later. Beauty is the luxury of the elite who can afford it.

Is marriage the end of a man's worries?

Marriage multiplies worries by the simple mathematical process of adding.

Some people say that a wife is a knife to cut short one's life?

With a knife you can also spread butter on your bread.

Would you please state the advantages of marrying in the evening of one's life?

Sometimes you can push the night further by stretching the evening a little more.

What should a wife do if her husband loves another woman?

That is the most trying situation in a woman's life when the heart aches, the eyes get inflamed and the tongue spoils for a fight. A wise woman would forget her own feelings and give greater devotion to the man to bring him back home slowly but surely. There is an Atom Bomb in a woman's tongue and its atoms must not go flying about in such circumstances if the home is not to be another Hiroshima.

When conjugal love fails, is not divorce a blessing?

Divorce is an escape. It would be a blessing only if both the parties got a better deal than the previous one.

Generally parents love only their first and last born children much better than the rest. Why?

Because they mark the beginning and the end of their joint career.

What is the secrecy of marriage?

Except the tom-toms, everything is a secret

What is the role of a wife in a man's life?

She must grease the wheels to make it easier for the man to pull the cart.

Can you suggest any way of treating an unfaithful wife?

Divorce her and give her a chance to be faithful to the man she likes. That would be reclaiming one woman

My friend said that he was having a headache throughout his marriage ceremony. Why?

Married life is one long migraine which only a funeral cures.

Should a blind man marry?

Every man who marries is blind. Faith in his wife robs him of his eyesight. In marriage a blind man hasn't therefore a greater disadvantage than the one with eyes.

What is platonic satisfaction in married life?

Holding the baby while the mother washes the linen.

What do you mean by marriage?

Legalized mating!

What is a perfect family quarrel?

When words fill the stomachs and meals go begging.

What alarms a husband most?

A beautiful wife and a handsome friend.

What is married happiness?

A pre-marital ambition and post-marital mirage.

When does marriage become a public affair?

When the bugs from the bed travel to the neighbour's chair.

How to hold a slippery husband?

Let him run round the course Like a tired horse he will ultimately return to the stable Women lose their husbands in trying to hold them.

Why do girls marry men they don't love?

In a conventional world, love is still a black-market commodity for which both men and women have to pay heavily And all haven't the hearts to pay.

Can you suggest any remedy to get rid of an illiterate wife?

Educate yourself to the point of philosophy. At that stage even an illiterate wife becomes one more book of life to read.

Does familiarity ever breed contempt in married life?

It also breeds contemptuous brats.

Why is a mother-in-law always depicted as a termagant?

She should be really shown as a termite that burrows the pillars of harmony in a home.

Which is the cheapest jewel that a husband can offer to his wife?

Himself! Nothing can be cheaper than that.

If a husband is unfaithful to his wife has he any right to expect her to be faithful?

Loyalty is an inherent virtue—not an item of mutual contract.

Can there be happiness in marrying a divorced woman?

There is some chance of marital happiness on a virgin bed but none on a divorced one which is strewn with inhibitions of the past. Mental harmony is the bedrock of every marriage and sensitive minds do not fancy taking history to bed.

What is the difference between a bachelor's life and a married life?

In a bachelor's life there are many photographs and one hope. In a married life there is only 'she' and many regrets.

How to make husbands speak the truth?

Don't try. If husbands speak the truth, marital beds will become graveyards of romance.

I had promised to marry a beautiful rose of sweet seventeen. But she lost one of her eyes by small pox. What should I do now?

Go ahead and marry the girl. It is the perfume of a rose that lasts longer than its complexion.

When does a wife go out of control?

When you decontrol once and try to recontrol her. By that time she has had some blackmarket adventures.

LIFE

Don't you think it is better to be spectators than actors in the tragedy of life?

Only the dead become spectators, the living always remain actors in the drama of life, whether grim or gay.

Which is the most intoxicating thing in the world?

Flattery. It gives a swollen head which death alone can restore to normal size. It turns dwarfs into giants and makes the wise look idiots.

What is the difference between a philosopher and a politician?

A philosopher extracts wisdom from the chaos a politician creates.

What is the difference between the war-front and the home-front?

On the war-front you die once but on the home-front you die every day.

*God has not taken the tears away from the very same eyes from which He has taken away the vision
What does this suggest?*

Taking away the vision is punishment but taking away the tear would be depriving man of his chance of repentance.

How to be hoppy in life?

Sip at the joys slowly and swallow the sorrows quickly.

Please underline the difference between pride and vanity?

Pride has a bank balance. Vanity has only debts

Define celibacy?

A doubtful virtue.

What is the difference between a virgin and a nun?

A virgin may prove an oasis some day but a nun remains a mirage always.

Do you think being left-handed is a disadvantage in any way?

Not at all. It should be a distinction in a world of right-handed people who do so much wrong with a hand that is intended to do the right thing.

What is the definition of a loafer?

The man who lives on his neighbour's loaf.

What is age?

A matter of the mind with a man and a tragedy of the mirror with a woman.

Which is the warmest greeting: a kiss or an embrace?

That depends on what you kiss or embrace. An ice bag cannot be warmed up with either.

Is a tear liquid sorrow?

Often it is solid grief.

As a Hindu why don't you keep cows instead of dogs?

I can buy milk but not loyalty.

Is it true that a laugh is the cheapest luxury a man enjoys?

A smile is cheaper still. It needs less breadth and less muscular energy.

"God never sends mouths without sending meat". Do you agree with this?

No. God doesn't keep a butcher's shop. We expect too much from God. We have to find the meat ourselves.

What is history?

A long story of human crimes with rare punctuations of humane deeds.

Who is a poor man?

The man with a blank horizon and a bankrupt brain.

Why are two eyes better than one?

You can see the right and wrong of life at once. That is if you see at all.

What do you call him who calls that face angelic when even paint cannot hide its wrinkles?

A son

What is a language?

Words that have turned a world into ruins. A curse that is denied to animals.

Isn't life more like a great fairy story?

The tales which fairies tell are not tragedies.

*Which gives greater pleasure to the human mind.
work or success?*

Work when the mind is in the travail of creation
and success when labour is to be crowned.

*Which is more glorious: bubbling youth or experi-
enced old age?*

Experience which bubbles like youth.

Is life a tragedy or a comedy?

It's neither. It is just a reality with shades of
both.

*What is the distance between the cradle and the
grave?*

The journey may take minutes or years, while
millions drop straight from the womb into the
grave.

What is the sign of virginity?

In present times, childhood.

*Which is more dangerous and why: the famine of
food or the famine of husbands?*

Food is a primary need. Sex does not thrive on
empty stomachs.

Who has discovered the existence of Paradise?

The good men of the world to tempt the bad
ones from their evil ways. It is a pleasant inven-
tion.

*Is the theatre a place for entertainment or for
romance?*

For both if the romance does not intrude on the
entertainment of others.

Who is responsible for the birth of a child: child himself, the parents or destiny?

Birth is an accident, parents are the machinery and desire is the spark.

Is it right to say that character is what you are in the dark?

Should be what is revealed under a searchlight.

Define pain?

A democratic feeling.

Is life worth living in the midst of hatred, jealousy and poverty?

Yes, use them as sand bags against the blasts of life and you get enough incentive to last a life-time.

Is there any relation between sex-appeal and nudity?

Nudity is sex-appeal in the raw.

Is it a fact that the average man's arm is as long as the measurement of the average girl's waist?

A willing waist doesn't need a long arm. It can be held with a finger.

Why do people take an oath?

To make their lies - convincing.

Define poverty?

A rag shed by the rich and worn by the poor.

Can you tell me whether people really get wisdom with wisdom teeth?

They get a swollen jaw. Teeth are useful only in digging one's grave. There is no wisdom in them—there is only a bite in them.

Which is more adventurous to be in love with a Miss or a Missus?

Adventure depends on age. I know a 'Miss' of 65 and a 'Missus' of 13.

What is the 'salt of life'?

The sweat of your brow.

Name the big three in India?

Famine, pestilence and politics—they take their toll round the clock.

What is life without a wife?

It remains life.

What is the difference between the rich and the poor?

The rich have designs, the poor have plans.

Define desire and fulfilment?

Courting and marriage.

Is hero worship good?

If God is the hero. The rest are idols with feet of clay.

Is a child in the cradle the best symbol of 'sleeping beauty'?

Anything sleeping is beautiful except fortune.

Why do the dogs of aristocrats bark only at sweepers and beggars?

Human beings have made even the dogs class conscious by naming some as pariahs and others as pedigreed ones. Loyal to their masters the dogs play their part loyally.

Why are Indian princes very much interested in horse races?

It is a game of vicarious sweating. The horses sweat and the princes get tired.

What are the blessings of poverty?

Poverty is a curse, a crime and a misfortune. It has not even a consolation, leave alone a blessing.

What do the wrinkles on an old man's face denote?

Furrows of time that ploughed through youth and sowed seeds of struggle and experience.

How does a sinner feel at the time of his death?

Sad at the thought of his career being cut short.

What is reputation?

The goodwill of creditors

Man was happiest when he was a hunter. Do you agree?

The very fact that he had to hunt for his livelihood shows that he had to struggle. Man has never been happy

Who are the philosopher kings of today?

Those ornamental monarchs who warm their thrones needlessly and become innocent exhibits in state pageantry.

Distinguish between a dream of an Indian and that of an American?

An American dreams of building a sky-scraper while an Indian dreams of meditation in the Himalayas.

Is there anybody who has donkeys as pets?

Only those whose stomachs ride on the donkey's back.

Define corruption?

A way of living without official blessings.

What is the difference between a widow and a widower?

The widow has a short life, the widower has a longer one. The widow is in danger while the widower is dangerous.

How to scare away insurance agents?

Tell them you have tuberculosis. They won't waste their time over you.

Why does it rain in the cities where it is least required?

To wash away the sins of the citizens.

In this artificial society does a smile hide a yawn of boredom?

The polite ones smile, others yawn.

Did Adam and Eve marry each other?

They had no choice.

What are your views regarding temple entry?

Rushing to break one's head over a stone.

In England one is allowed to kiss a woman under the mistletoe. What is the corresponding convention in India?

There is no official license in this country but you can steal one under a staircase if the woman happens to be yours.

What is nature's first lesson to all her children?

Yell when you want.

By what do you measure happiness?

By the smiles around me.

What is a dream?

Generally a mirage, sometimes an oasis in the desert of life.

Do you believe in ghosts?

I am afraid of the living who are more mean and dangerous than the dead.

What is your conception of a "paradise on earth"?

A world in which human blood is used to forge ties of friendship and not traded-in for gold and greed.

What is life—a struggle or a dream?

A struggle with a dream as the goal and incentive.

When would one feel more excited: seeing a horse passing the winning post or a beloved running into one's arms?

If the bet is on money, the horse would be exciting, but if the heart is at stake—well—.

Who should be hated more: the sin or the sinner?

The circumstances that compel the act.

What is the difference between a crushed flower and an abandoned woman?

A crushed flower has neither life nor perfume in it. An abandoned woman may still have both and therefore some hope for the future. One is a dead memory, the other is often a living reproach.

How do you like quarrels with neighbours?

Good exercise for the voice, more knowledge of epithets and good obsession for the brain.

What is your conception of life?

Living and kicking till there is no life left in the kick

Which is the best way to lead a happy life as a bachelor?

Good-looking neighbours make bachelorhood a tantalizing experience.

Do you believe in platonic friendship?

Platonic friendship is a figment of man's intellect in its impotent moments of frustration.

Is it good to be thick-skinned in life?

Thick skin is a good all-weather protection in a world of bilious tongues. It guarantees good sleep.

Between the father and the mother who has a greater claim on the child?

Spiritually and physically, the mother is the only parent of the child. After his single spark, the father merely provides an index card for social purposes.

How narrow is the boundary between vice and virtue?

There is a wide world of thought between the two. While killing a single man becomes murder, bombing millions for democracy remains a national virtue. Vice and virtue are relative terms and change their meaning according to age and circumstances.

Do you like animal pets? Have you any?

I like dogs in original and cats idiomatically. The former give loyalty, the latter a scratch.

What can one learn from life?

That life is one long hurdle and you can keep yourself in the saddle only if you don't allow others to whip the horse.

What do you like: to hunt a lion or to save a deer?

I like the run I get. There is always more fun in the chase than in the 'kill'.

Will you ever practise what you preach?

Impossible! I am improving every minute. What I preached yesterday becomes obsolete to-day. Remember we are living in speedy times.

Why does a woman make a better pal to you than a man?

A child of caprice needs motherly patience.

Are you a professional gambler?

I have been under that delusion for the last twenty years but the balance sheet proves that I have only been a good loser.

Would you like to be labelled mad?

No objection if doing so acquits me of the crimes that are attributed to me.

What gives you more money: "filmindia" magazine or your race horse of that name?

The horse eats a part of the magazine every month and thus cracks a bigger joke than all the jokes I give. A brute, after all!

If romance is the privilege of the rich, what is the profession of the unemployed?

Dreams! They are free and fantastic.

Is there any difference between 'tiffin' and 'lunch'?

Not in the dictionary but in the tiffin boxes. In India a lunch is a rich man's tiffin.

How can a rich man be made to understand the real worth of poverty?

Poverty has no worth, it has only a woe which only the poor know.

A mother-in-law desires her son-in-law to set deserving members of her family on their legs. Is it reasonable?

It is too much price to pay for the pair of legs she gives to the son-in-law.

What is a dirty mind?

A mind that smells filth in the midst of fragrance

What is the dream that won't come true?

Peace—a beautiful dream in the midst of the nightmare around.

Is there a limit to love?

Life is the limit and Gandhiji reached the limit.

What kind of a person can have no enemies?

Human beings are so wicked that they will dig up even thousand-year old bones and find something in them to slander.

In my younger days I used to laugh and laugh at everything, everywhere and at any time. But now I can't however much I try. What is it due to?

You are dead. Learn to laugh and life will come back.

What advantages had Adam and Eve?

They had the Garden to themselves and no prying neighbours. We have politicians messing up our lives

At midnight, practically all Bombay streets are lined with people sleeping. What happens during day time?

They keep walking to get tired enough to make the pavements soft.

What was Gandhiji's greatest extravagance?

He showered love on people who lived on hatred.

Why is it that people feel gloomy when they attain maturity?

As years pile up, thoughts get hardened and hard thoughts have often a sad ring.

What remedy would you suggest to stop staring at girls?

Ignore the eye that has no virtue in it.

Is this world unreal?

It is very much real with grocers, milkmen, servants, bankers, tax-collectors, doctors etc.

What is the way all drunkards go ?

All go the same way—gravewards but drunkards take a zig-zag route and in their intoxication some of them do not even feel the cold embrace of death.

Why is infant mortality very high in India?

In this country where the cow is worshipped we should have had milk running through water pipes But forgetting to feed with fodder what we worship with flowers, our people have dried up the fountain of our national health. With one child in every five dying before its first birth anniversary, we are now burning babies at the altar of the cow. Our Congress ministers, in their blind self-righteousness, are busy saving a few grown-up thousands from alcoholism and losing crores in revenue which could have been well used to buy milk for our little millions.

How to be your own boss?

Do all work as if it is your own and as if your very life depends on it.

Barbers are good propagandists. Do you gossip with your barber?

I read newspapers which beat the barbers hollow.

How did our ancestors manage without toothbrush and paste?

They didn't have dentists in those days and the teeth looked after themselves.

Which is stronger: moral force or police force?

Moral force for arm chair philosophy, police force for outdoor safety.

Is purda a blessing or a curse?

It is a blessing in the land where eyes are thirsty.

What have you to say about a person who begins to dig a well when he is thirsty?

It is better than drinking without thirst and being found in the gutter next day.

Is eating one's heart a healthy occupation?

It is a diet that tastes bitter owing to the bile of disappointment.

Have you seen male ladies and female gentlemen?

Very common these days. Most of them work for the revival of art and culture.

Where does peace lie in this world?

Underground or in ashes

How may a faithful wife cure a drunkard husband?

Drunkenness is a disease. It needs a doctor and not a wife.

How can one become mad?

Shout loudly about the things you see happening before your eyes and the authorities will proclaim you mad. Sanity in the present world means a general conspiracy to keep mum over what is happening and echo only what is licensed.

I am a very lazy fellow. What am I to do?

Don't do anything for the present. Very shortly when you feel hungry you will get going. Hunger is a good cure for laziness.

Do you believe in miracles?

A man in distress always believes in miracles.

Why is fate cruel to some and lavish to others?

Fate is blind luck. It often stumbles against the wrong ones.

What way do you suggest to win the love of a capitalist?

Sweat for him till you can't sweat any more. A capitalist loves the toiling humanity.

What is the difference between a horse and a mule?

The horse is a noble animal on which you lose money while the mule is an ignoble creature who slaves for you and brings the bacon home.

In tragic circumstances, who is the pillar of strength—man or woman?

Man is physical support, woman is moral support.

Will you suggest some respectable way of earning a living?

The more salt you drop from your skin, greater the sugar in your bread. And anything sweet is respectable.

What would you suggest when efficient doctors are unable to cure a patient?

That the man is keeping date with his destiny.

Why is it a fashion among the modern mothers to go for an outing leaving their babies at home?

Babies become brats when they pipe at the wrong time and place. No mother would like her little ones to be called brats.

Are we happier than our forefathers?

Man has never been happy since his birth. In giving him his brain box, God gave him an endless world of misery.

Why is it that almost all people expect good morals from film folks?

What they miss in themselves they expect to find in others.

What is the difference between the dreams of an old man and a young man?

Dreams of the old are reflections of the past, while those of the young are wild fancies of the future.

What do you think when you see an ugly woman beautifully dressed?

That there is still some democracy left in the world.

Define socialism?

Rheumatism of the poor which demands blankets from the rich.

What is the difference between an intoxicated man and an intoxicated woman?

When a woman is drunk her character is questioned, when a man gets drunk his environments are condemned.

What is the secret of your success? Please tell the truth frankly?

Constant reading, close observation and hard work and after all this, luck!

Define oath?

A profession under which a confession must be accepted as truth, without, of course, believing in it.

Should a young boy or a girl believe in a horoscope?

A map of the heavens is needed after death, not before.

What is etiquette?

A ticket for modern vice.

Define flattery?

Words that kill without leaving clues behind.

Why are parents in greater hurry to marry a daughter and not a son?

A daughter's mistake cries back from the cradle and the cry shakes the very fibre of our social life. In India birth is still an old fashioned event of conventional married life.

When is a romance complete?

When desire loses its edge.

Do you have faith in the 'Ramdhun' of Gandhiji?

It is a 7000-year-old refrain which has lost its tone now. People echo the thunder of the Atom Bomb these days.

Why do little babies want to swallow whatever they get in their hands?

Wise little ones! They want to commit suicide rather than grow to stab one another in the back.

Why is a hen-pecked husband a common phenomenon in towns and not in villages?

In the villages, the hen is busy laying eggs and has no time for the rooster.

Can you tell me who are the best people?

Those that don't know you.

Does sacrifice pay in this selfish world?

Yes, pays the other party.

Between a beautiful woman and a beautiful child, whom would you prefer to kiss?

The woman, as the child may have a dirty face. Angels often have dirty faces.

What should one do when he feels that the world around him has become uninteresting?

If there is nothing better to do, strip yourself and rush through a crowded street and the world will be galvanised into interest. It is a funny world.

Which is the way to heaven please?

Through the hell of a life-time.

What type of bed should a girl of eighteen have?

A bed of hopes and rosy dreams.

Why do people lick and stick stamps?

Because the stamps provide free gum.

What do you think of Prohibition by law in our country?

I disapprove of prohibition by law. In my opinion it is a vain attempt at self-arrogated morality. Wine is as old as the gods and it has come down to us through ages and scriptures as a supreme soothe for human agony. It is our legacy of an age when gods were human and men were divine and though wine has been condemned as an evil since its first sip by man, he has not stopped drinking at its bubbling fountain of vice and forgetfulness

A country that needs legislation to maintain the morality of its people is indeed unfortunate. Saints have preached great sermons against the evil of drinking through ages but this gospel of saints has always remained a bad sermon in the world of sinners. It is wise for the saints to preach but stupid for the State to enforce the preaching. For, what is enforced ceases to be moral. Virtue becomes a prize only when it is acquired by self-realization and not when it is thrust into the lives of people.

Every new law creates a new crowd of law-breakers and one more crime is added to the stock of human sins.

What does day-dreaming denote?

Sleepless nights.

At what age in life should a man prefer death?

Any time is good time to die if life has ceased to be interesting.

What do you prefer—a fool's paradise or an intelligent man's hell?

Every intelligent man would like to live in a fool's paradise. Living there would be relaxation for him.

When life crushes one down what should one do?

A crushed fruit still yields its health-giving juice to the world Man can do no better.

What do you think is better: to struggle for life or to rest in peace?

The dead rest in peace.

To what extent do you believe in luck?

When I work hard and people take time paying for it, I begin to believe in luck.

Why are college girls so cunning?

Because college boys are so cussedly persevering.

Is life an art or a dream?

It is both. Dream is the goal and art the way to it.

What is the difference between kissing on the screen and kissing in private life?

With one you build the box-office, with the other you take home a cradle.

Are n't you afraid of death?

Death is the event of a moment.

Why is every great world war followed by disease and famine everywhere?

Do you expect a garden of flowers to thrive on the stink of the dead?

Is a life with too much struggle good?

The Bhagwat Gita says, "Out of conflict comes creation". Life itself is a product of conflict. What is wrong with struggle being a vital part of it? A life without struggle is a dead existence.

How many times does a man die before his natural death?

The fear of death kills more people than death.

What is life and what is the place of love in it?

Life is a lamp and love the little flame, that lights it.

What is your opinion about girls?

I think they add colour to the drab design of life.

What are the feelings of a woman towards her illegitimate child?

To a woman no child is illegitimate unless it comes from another womb. In a mother's womb there are no man-made laws and the spark of life is not only legitimate but also divine. It is only when the little one opens its eyes in this world of sinners that the sinners rush to brand it as illegitimate before the little one gets a chance to strip the world of its hypocrisy.

Is it a sin to commit suicide?

Yes, if life is still worth living.

Can a bachelor's life be happy after the age of forty?

It has a better chance after forty, as, with age, desire becomes rusty.

Very often, the more you ignore a woman, the more she cares for you. How is this possible?

This is a dangerous experiment with the modern woman. Don't try it because our social waters are full of sharks that live on neglected women.

Can the hen which lays eggs be considered philanthropic?

No. The egg is her pride product which we steal and console the fowl by petting her to lay more.

A dead person is always praised for his deeds done in the past. Why not a living one?

The living one is also praised by epithets of jealousy.

Is it possible in the present day world to go through life without hurting some one?

Even the greatest and noblest man of the day who hurt none and served all, did, in spite of himself, turn one into a devil who murdered him. The present world is so bad that even virtue hurts.

Why has a poor man more children than a rich man?

The rich man scatters his seed in clandestine sowings.

Are you prepared to sacrifice your life for your country?

No! I am prepared to live and work for it. Too many people are killed in the name of the country. It is high time some are asked to live and work.

I have no sisters. Can you arrange to get one for me?

The world is full of sisters vainly searching for brothers.

What do you feel when you see young women being whirled away in a ball-room in the embrace of lewd and sensual men?

I pity the men to whom these women belong. Modern ball-room dancing is one of the sex perversions of the West, utterly unsuitable for our people.

Is love necessary for a man and a woman to have children?

Only a man and a woman are necessary. The world's population is by no means a wholesale product of love with so much hatred in the air.

Why do lovers quarrel over petty things and so often?

All the world's quarrels are over petty things. Big things are always settled by compromise.

Nearly three years have passed since I last visited Bombay, the beautiful. How is the city nowadays?

Since then the Municipality has added a new smell to Marine Drive by directing some night soil into the sea. Now what those millionaires of Marine Drive do inside the privacy of their homes, the poor people smell outside.

Does the music of life emanate from a broken heart?

The music of a broken heart is a dirge of despair. For music to belong to life it must have the thrill of living.

What should be the medium of instruction in the Universities in India?

If an effective and comprehensive education is the goal, English should be the medium with Hindustani as a compulsory second language. The present devil-dancing for Hindi is vindictive patriotism and has nothing to do with real education. A progressive nation must adopt a medium in which the greatest educational material is immediately available. It is just like using the Atom Bomb in preference to other obsolete war weapons.

Is it scandalous in a scientist?

It may save him from the scandals of his failures.

A mother's love is very touching, but do you think it to be selfish?

It is always selfish and possessive till you tear yourself away from it. Then it becomes resigned and elevating.

Do birds sing?

Poets say so but I have not heard. The noise which the nightingale makes is hardly music to the human ear.

Why are we so inquisitive about our neighbour's morals?

To prevent the neighbour from prying into ours.

What is the difference between a bride and a virgin?

The words were synonymous in old times. Now even three-in-one widows become new brides.

Is it against etiquette to refuse to drink or smoke in society?

No etiquette is involved in smoking or drinking
Each one to his own poison and water can be a
bad as whisky sometimes.

*How does the world appear to a man just before
he commits suicide?*

Deserted! It is loneliness that often leads a
man to self destruction. Everyone needs an
interested crowd—whether of friends or enemies
—to live and kick

*Between a mother-in-law and a step-mother who
is more dangerous?*

A step-mother poisons one's childhood while a
mother-in-law poisons one's married life. A man
who passes from a bad step-mother to a worse
mother-in-law is perhaps the most miserable
creature in the world

*Do you think money is the basis of a successful
marriage?*

It is the first essential for anything to be
successful. Even saints who give up everything
need money for their incense.

*I am all alone in India No relatives, no friends
and if I die there is no one to weep for me. Don't
you think that my life is useless?*

I wish I could say the same You are a very
happy man. Those who weep over a corpse make
the dead repent for living

*Is there any remarkable difference between the
morality of the rich and that of the poor?*

To the rich morality is a virtue, to the poor it
is a necessity.

Why do people give presents at the time of celebrations?

To divert attention from their own envies, jealousies and hatreds which corrode their insides.

Is boxing a human game?

It is brutal above the belt and inhuman below it. And yet they call it a manly sport just as politics is mistaken for patriotism.

My brother died some time ago. How best can I cherish his memory?

Forget him! Remembering the dead is a morbid sentiment. There are enough orphans in this world who need a brother. Adopt one and thus sanctify the memory of one who will never come back.

Which is the best way of earning a good name in this world?

This world is not worth all the trouble. The best name we have has been turned into a vote catching device. If they can do that to Gandhiji after 50 years of his selfless service, what is the sense in you and I struggling to earn a name? We can do the next best thing: earn an honest living.

Is this a good earth?

Yes, but the worms turn too often.

Are beds the last place to look for comfort?

Wherever the body lies is a bed. Comfort is the colour you take from the mind. Millions sleep more comfortably on street pavements than many do in their royal beds.

Do the dead find rest?

The poor and unknown do but not the great dead.
Even in paying homage, the living disturb the dead

The poor man having many children trembles when he hears the approach of important festivals like Diwali, Pongal etc., once in a year. What does the rich man think about it?

To the rich a festival is an opportunity to turn his money into crackers and disturb the neighbourhood. That is the only sound of money the poor hear.

What do you think of "culture"?

A useful word these days to collect young girls and be friendly with them.

What makes some old men often stare at young girls?

Old age often looks at youth for sympathy and generosity.

What is 'middle age'?

The stage at which the feet are set to the future while the mind is hitched to the past

What is the significance of Mahatma Gandhi having been assassinated by a Hindu and that too a Maharashtrian?

A criminal has no community, no religion and no province. He is Satan's son and as such a world citizen.

✓ *Why does the world condemn some books as immoral?*

The books which the world calls immoral are often the books that mirror the world's shame.

When do beggars' dreams always come true?

Always in sleep!

Can a beggar disguise himself as a prince?

The disguise will be successful only if the other beggars don't spot him. Princes, of course, won't as they don't know what beggars look like.

What is social consciousness?

A virtue you expect in others.

When does one suffer from an acute sense of security?

When luxury dulls the edge of imagination and the intoxication of the present clouds the vision for the future

When walls do come crumbling down, how to protect one's self?

Put your back against them and smile. The smile may make the walls steady.

Is the modern man bloody?

Hell! And how? He sheds blood, drinks blood and gives blood

How will the film industry be affected by your death?

Death affects neither the dead nor the living for life is an eternal current which instantly fills every void

When did you first begin to like girls?

In the cradle, when they gave me a doll with blue eyes and pink frock to play with and I have been looking for a blue-eyed belle all my life.

Have you ever wept in loneliness?

Men always weep in solitude as their tears move none. Women need a gallery for their tears which are called pearls by mad poets.

What is the difference between a king and a peasant in the grave where both are reduced to the same dust?

A king rises from his grave and enters the books of history. The peasant merely throws some more dust into the womb of Mother Earth.

Is India a spiritual country?

Very much so, with one child in every five becoming a spirit before its first birth anniversary.

Do you think that the present rationing quota of cloth is sufficient for every adult? Tell me what can we do with ten yards?

You can cover three dead bodies with it.

Do rich people beg and if so in what manner?

They ask God for more riches, long life and more children. They want their riches to get a longer run.

Is pickpocketing an art?

Till a policeman objects to it.

Should boys know cooking?

With our modern girls doing everything but cooking and a classless society round the corner, it is high time boys look after their own meals.

How does a scandal start?

Often when a man ceases to be a hypocrite and flourishes his honesty.

A donkey looks like a philosopher, the way it stands meekly, silently and thoughtfully?

And it never gets any stomach ulcers either.

What is the burning problem of the day?

To extinguish the fire in the burning pit of the stomach.

What is disease?

Price of poverty and penalty of pleasure!

Of the three factors, past, present and future which is more important in the life of a man, woman and a nation?

The present! It has a pinch of the past, the pangs of the present and a presentiment of the future.

Why are poor people ashamed of their poverty?

They don't like to embarrass the rich by exhibiting their poverty.

How is human milk measured?

By the smile on the baby's face!

What is the difference between a weeping man and a weeping woman?

A weeping man destroys while a weeping woman builds.

Oscar Wilde says, "The book of life begins with a man and a woman in a garden". Where does it end?

It ends in the bed with new editions of the book.

When do mistakes become sins?

When apologies do not follow in the wake of mistakes.

People say that philosophers are half mad?

While philosophers think that people are completely mad.

When does virtue become a vice?

When the ramrod of law pushes it down your throat

Why are drunkards generally disliked?

They lose their sense of humour too soon

What must have passed in Adam's mind when he first set eyes on Eve?

He didn't know what to do with her and let her take the initiative. Since then Eve has been running the show.

What is the food that dead men eat?

The great dead live on their fame while death saves the little ones from their diet of dust.

MEN

Which is the way to a man's heart?

That depends on whether his heart is in the head or in the stomach.

Why should men marry?

There is no 'should', they just 'do'. Adam set the vogue.

Why do men stare at girls?

Partly to pay back the cost of the dresses which the girls wear and partly to cover their own naked eyes with a veil of desire.

When a youth loves a girl, he loves even her dog?

That is a religious instinct. Don't we touch the bull while entering Lord Shiva's temple?

What makes a skirt a flirt?

A big bulge in the hip pocket of the trousers.

What is the best way to teach a girl to swim?

Buy her a fine swimming costume and go with a camera to the beach. The rest is simple.

Is there anything more beautiful than tears?

The eyes that hold the tears. When a man is "moved by tears", he is really worried about the eyes that shed the tears

What are a man's duties towards a woman?

To love and to protect, but he suspects and detects.

What does a man need for the peace of his soul and for the satisfaction of his body?

A live woman for his body and a dead one for his soul.

Why do men generally talk of actresses?

To tickle their manhood.

What happens when an irresistible woman acts on an immovable man?

The man moves and the woman become less resistible.

How to cure the polygamous cravings in man?

Feed the brute, he always comes home to roost.

What makes widowers marry again?

Tantalizing memories!

Is this statement true that 'man is a beast'?

Not when alone!

What should a man do if he is afraid of his wife?

Drown himself in the nearest pond.

What is that which a man of lakhs lacks?

The human part of him!

Is chest swelling of the females a disease?

Yes, conjunctivitis of the male eyes.

Is man a creature or a creator of circumstances?

A creature who fancies himself to be the creator.

When is a man not a man?

When he expects a woman to be a woman and himself forgets to be a man.

When do men blush?

When they are caught bluffing.

Which is the best way for women to secure equal rights with men?

Love them. In love men give everything away—even their own rights.

Are wives necessary for educated men?

Does education take their manhood away?

I see even some educated men having beautiful wives, raving about some girls of the screen. What kind of mania is this?

It is a poaching complex which men have inherited from beasts.

Do you think man is completely civilized as we find him today?

Civilization is a word glamourised by the sinful ambitions of men through different ages.

Do women like men to have smooth faces?

A man's face should be tanned by the heat of the sun and washed in the sweat of his labour. That is the face which good women of the world love to see in a man.

Why does a man call his wife 'the better half'?

Women like flattery and man uses it to prolong her bondage.

Could you think of any mirror which could reflect the stupidity and foolishness of a man?

A man's wife is often the mirror of his folly.

Women sob, when frustrated in love What do you suggest for men?

They should pinch their bottom and wake up.

What causes a man to become a cynic?

A frustrated ego!

What is an awkward age in a man's life and when does he reach it?

When opportunity is twenty years younger and desire fails to kindle a spark in the physical frame.

What is pride in man?

An argument to feel hurt, especially when a woman steps on his corns.

Why does a late-comer get irritated when his wife asks him where he had been?

You can't press the wrong button and get the right response.

What will be the last thing civilized by man?

Himself, if at all!

Why are women called cats?

Because men are dogs and like to perpetuate their conflict with the fair ones.

What should a man do when his heart is robbed by a beautiful girl?

He should let her keep it and start working overtime to maintain her beauty.

Can you suggest any ways and means for an ugly woman to win the heart of a handsome man?

Handsome men have no hearts, but they often marry ugly women who flatter men by doting on them

What are the qualities of a modern gentleman?

A gentleman is an ancient institution and has not changed his code through ages. There is nothing modern about a gentleman.

Why do you think God has created woman?

To sober down man in his game of greed and power.

Why do men dress well?

Dress is the disease of the mirror. Even a man fancies that a good dress makes him look more human

What is the difference between the sighs of an old man and that of a young man?

Young sighs may spell romance some day while old ones merely echo an epitaph over the past.

Can a man forgive his wife for being unfaithful?

Yes, if he can forgive himself for the same offence.

Please explain, 'she is a woman of questionable character'?

Which means men are doubtful of their own.

Is there any end to man's wisdom?

Not as long as his follies are eternal.

Women cry and get rid of their mental burden. What do the men do?

They shout and make everyone around miserable.

What happens when a damsel winks at a gentleman?

The gentleman becomes a cave man.

Are women ever sincere in their remarks about their husbands?

Yes, when such remarks are meant only for their own ears. Husbands acquire virtues when their wives have an audience of other women.

Generally men in spite of having beautiful wives glare at others' wives. Why is it so?

To check up and assess their own good fortune.

How is it that a woman takes ten minutes to say what a man could do in one?

Because for nine minutes out of those ten men remain deaf and a woman has to repeat herself to be heard in the final minute.

Who is the god of all wars?

Man and in his greed for power is the spark of eternal conflict.

What is the worst disease that a man ever suffers from?

Himself!

What is the effect of tears in a wife's eyes?

Tears in a wife's eyes irritate the man but in a sweetheart's eyes they flatter him.

I would like to recommend cooking as a part of a boy's education. What is your opinion?

Knowing modern girls as I do, this should be made a compulsory subject for boys.

Is woman a heart-breaker or a heart healer?

Man never has a 'heart' for a woman. It is his 'pride' in which is reflected his affection for a woman. When a woman jilts, that pride is hurt, nothing happens to the heart.

Don't you think that the modern Eve starts running before she has learnt to walk?

That is because she is chased by greedy hunters who don't give her even a dog's chance.

Most of our religious books describe women as inferior to men. Why is it so?

In books written by men!

Can marriage and parenthood improve the character of a man?

They may blunt the edge of desire and check the temptations.

Jealousy among women is proverbial. Are men also jealous of other men?

Even dogs fly at each other's throat, why should men lag behind?

Men who are real big flirts, what type of wives do you think, they'll like?

A quiet house-wife who has the patience to nurse the cad after every new kick on his pride.

Why is a wife called the 'better half'?

It is a man's method of covering his own black half.

Why are people more suspicious of the activities of a bachelor than those of a married man?

The bachelor is a needy soul in distress. But the married man-eater is always more dangerous.

What is the acid test to catch a man in his true colours?

Ask for a loan and watch the colour changing.

Do old men sing?

Yes, while bathing! Hot water makes them musical and hot words make them dance.

Blush is characteristic of women, what is the characteristic of men?

Bluff!

Why is it the ideal wife is always somebody else's?

And the other he always wanted to marry.

Does a man really fall in love?

Only in love stories and poems!

If women claim equality with men, why should men surrender their seats in the buses to them?

Women never ask for those seats Men give them because they want to be noticed for their chivalry. At best it is a selfish gesture.

How does a wise man feel in a fool's paradise?

He gets an attack of superiority complex and soon reaches the level of others.

What do you think of a man who is always suspecting his beautiful young wife?

Suspecting a beautiful wife is like smelling a beautiful flower again to inhale its fragrance. But suspecting is a gentle art which must be practised in a soothing manner

Why is proposing only a man's monopoly?

In this country if men waited for the women to propose, they would have to die bachelors.



WOMEN

Which do you think to be the 'crisis' in a woman's life?

A woman has two crises: the husband and the child—both in bed.

The more strongly you emphasize the secrecy of a thing, the more quickly is a woman liable to give the secret away. Why?

Women are delivery vans. They don't like strange things inside them too long.

Keeping in mind the fate of Adam, can we still have faith in Eve's daughters?

Eve's daughters don't demand faith. They expect cheques.

A friend of mine says, "A woman should be amiable, benevolent, charitable, domestic, economical, forgiving, generous, honest, industrious, judicious, kind, loving, modest, neat, obedient, pleasant, quiet, reflecting, sober, tender, urbane, virtuous, wise, exemplary and zealous". Can you find such a one?

If I come across this alphabetical monster, I shall murder her. Give me a woman with some tantalizing weaknesses.

What is the most accomplished fact about a woman?

Her sex, whatever dress or expression she wears.

Who should be congratulated more: the carpenter who with his creative imagination gave to the world a cradle or the poet who with his brilliance gave a lullaby?

The woman whose generosity gave employment to both.

I notice that Europeans like cars better than their wives. Why?

They can park the car where they like without anyone driving it away.

Why do women grow fat after marriage?

They empty their mind and fill up their stomachs.

Why is it that modern women do not like to have children?

It is a matter of prices and sizes of corsets and brassieres.

What is the difference between the dreams of a young girl and that of an old lady?

The old one has dry dreams—dreams that don't weep

Can women become engineers?

Woman built the first home from which grew the world. She is still our best architect.

Who, according to you, is the most heroic woman of modern times?

The common housewife who, unsung and unwept, still keeps the home fires burning in the midst of want and misery.

Where do tears end?

On the blouse front

Why are women more attracted by flowers than by men?

Flowers have a perfume, men have only perspiration. Flowers can be multiplied, men cannot be.

Why do women wear hats in Church?

Probably to protect themselves against the Divine light penetrating their skulls.

Women wear attractive garments while going to the temple. Why?

Because though God is blind, the devotees have eyes

Does lipstick improve or impair the look of an Indian belle?

It improves the appearance of the belle but spoils the laundry look of the man's kerchief.

Nowadays our women prefer wearing artificial flowers made of paper. Why?

Paper flowers become natural companions to artificial complexions. Neither have fragrance of their own

How is it that most of the girls are termed as virgins even at the age of 35?

It is a courtesy we can't investigate further.

Who is more extravagant—man or woman?

Woman! Her extravagance keeps the world crowded in the midst of floods, famines, pestilence and wars.

Why don't Indian housewives ever have a holiday?

Because they have ever hungry husbands.

When does a husband call his wife a mouse?

When she starts nibbling at his little purse.

Which is dearer to a woman's heart: her vanity case or her mirror?

Her face which needs both.

What should be the aim of a woman?

Man! If she shoots well and true, the corpse should be at her feet.

Is innocence a pleasant armour for a woman?

An armour is used for defence. Women use innocence for attack.

Is a woman's heart made of stone?

Stone would have been reliable. It is of rubber that responds to heat and cold.

Why do girls fear darkness?

Not experienced girls.

Which is the most attractive part in a woman?

Our knowledge of her sex.

What is more ecstatic in a woman's life: a man in her bed or a child in her lap?

Both! The first ecstasy leads to the other.

What were the first words Adam said to Eve?

"Hullo! where did you come from?" And she looked at the serpent. Ask Adam if you don't believe me. His descendants are still asking that question.

May I know the cost of one tear of a college girl?

If there is occult blood in it, it may take a man's life. It is, often, merely a sweat of the eye.

Which is more intoxicating: alcohol or a woman's eyes?

Alcohol! That is something you can trust.

Isn't the modern girl a vision in the night and a sight in the morning?

She is a vision in twilight and a disillusion at dawn. In between she is cold cream, mud packs, tweezers, bob pins, hair curlers and what not.

Can any woman tie a man with the rope of love?

She can hang him with a knotted one.

Who is dearer to a woman. her husband or her child?

A husband is another woman's child and not a product of one's own labour.

Have you at any time felt the pulse of an ultra-modern girl?

An ultra-modern girl has no pulse. She has an aerial on which she hangs her tell-tale linen.

What do the eyes of a girl tell?

They have the traffic red and green in them but the colours mean differently.

What do you think of Indian girls who bob their hair these days?

They love the barber.

The fickleness of the fair sex is proverbial. What is it due to?

Tender skin and male leather.

What do you think of sleeveless blouses as part of a woman's dress?

It is air conditioning for the arm pits.

Why can't a woman keep a secret?

Her function is to deliver and not store.

What does a woman feel in the midst of a crowd of admirers?

She touches the ceiling even if it is as high as the sky

In the case of wily women how is it that eyes dry up as soon as tears have served their end?

Their flushing system is operated by design and opportunity

Are there no women saints in India?

Almost every Hindu home has one. She has a god, an altar and a heart as an offering.

Do you believe in clubs for women?

I do if they are located far away from the town.

What does her mirror tell a young gal?

That she is the favourite descendant of Eve.

A word to the wife is sufficient. What is that word?

The world is searching for it since the days of Adam.

What is the strength of a woman?

Enough to be the mother of the world.

When is blushing a necessity?

When the tongue gets tied.

What things may be included in the hand bag of a beautiful lady?

If it contains her face and reputation there is a world in it

How many children can a woman give birth to?

Now that they are bringing them out in threes, fours and fives, it is difficult to assess their capacity. In old times women were more modest. They handed them out one by one.

Why is almost every woman gifted with the art of spending?

To keep the men busy earning.

Are women news?

Not unless they are young, beautiful and unattached

Wherein lies the glamour of a girl?

In her youth and refusal.

What is the closest to a woman's heart?

A baby's lips which make her the mother of the human race.

When does a woman's merit really attract general notice?

When the walls of her home enclose love, devotion and service

Tell me frankly which is the better between the two: a film actress or a society butterfly?

I vote in favour of the film actress. Acting in films needs talent, intelligence, toil and tears and the rewards are well-deserved. On the other hand, the society butterfly who shakes a leg on the ball-room floor or warms a chair at a bridge table is, perhaps, the most despicable type who salts her club sandwich with her husband's sweat and lends her honey to a strange bee.

Is there anything that can equal the warmth of a woman's heart?

The sparks from her tongue.

In what respect is the woman superior to man?

She is glazed while he is rugged.

When is a wife a wife and when is she not?

The woman who waits for you when you are away is the wife but the one who nags you on return is the woman.

How do you define 'bad' girls as opposed to 'good' ones?

Bad ones are those who being bad try to pass off as good. The good ones do not make a secret of what they are—good or bad.

Is it true that you are more easily moved by a woman's smile than by her tears?

Smiles and sighs are just shades of a woman's life. It is the woman behind these that matters.

When does a woman look more attractive, at day or at night?

I guess, during the day with her full camouflage. At night even her mind is stripped.

What is the difference between a girl and a flower?

If you pick the first she grows on you. If you pick the second it fades in your hand.

What is more attractive: Woman or nature?

Woman is the most puzzling point in nature.

Why have the women of today become so interested in ball room dancing?

To set the ball rolling in the ball rooms and collect the pay roll in the bedrooms.

Is a lady either a saint or a devil?

Don't mix up things. A lady is just a woman and that is more than the saint and the devil put together.

Which is sweeter in a woman: her heart or her kiss?

When a woman is in love she brings her heart on her lips, otherwise there is only art on them.

What do you think of a wife secretly taking money out of her husband's pocket?

An honest woman true to her creed.

Is it a fact that some girls don't catch anything unless they expose themselves?

One thing they don't catch is cold.

There was once a time when Seeta entered the fire to prove her purity, but now, alas!

Now they hold fire in the mouth and let the smoke out.

What is woman: light or darkness?

She is the light in darkness.

Usually girls drop their eyes when they see a young man What does it suggest?

Strain on the eyes.

Why is a woman referred to as honey?

Because lipsticks are made to taste sweet these days.

Why do women usually wear shoes with such high heels?

To get nearer to honey-height.

Is it a fact that women are cats?

They have never seriously denied the charge.

Why do mothers love their sons more than their daughters?

In the sons they see symbols of their husbands.

Thirty years ago, the naked ankle of a girl was enough stimulant for a young man. What would the situation be in 1977?

Women might wrap only the ankle and still mystify men What is covered and hidden becomes tantalizing, not what is stripped.

What should be the measurements of an ideal woman in India?

Good cooking, warm bed and a silent tongue.

Why don't you write something to elevate woman-kind to a higher level?

They are already sitting on our head. The highest level a woman likes to reach is a man's head. That is the Mount Everest of her ambitions.

Which is the easiest way to unearth the inner secrets of a woman's mind?

Raise the temperature Even the innermost secrets come out like bile when a woman is in white heat.

Why does a woman cling more to her child than to her husband?

The child she thinks to be a guarantee of her husband's loyalty. It is like the guarantee that goes with a watch

Is woman the best judge of man?

She has the best opportunity but like her routine with the mirror, she sees only what she wants to see in man

Why are women always compared to flowers?

Both are plucked once

What is character and how many women have it?

A woman's character is a man's sheet anchor and all good women have it

Which is the non-stop talking woman in this world and is there any way of stopping her?

Put a crying cut-out in the cradle and a lot of current will be diverted. You can't put a silencer on Pandora

How to console an angry dame?

Show her your back.

Is woman a house builder or a house breaker?

A woman is a greenhouse plant. She needs a home to thrive and those who need a home know how to build one

What is the difference between taming a tigress and taming a virago?

When you tame a tigress you get a circus but when you tame a virago you get a tigress.

Women accept their destiny more readily than men. Why?

In the heat of his ambition, man presumes to compete with God while a woman prays to save the man from himself. In accepting man as her mate, a woman hands over her life to destiny.

How can a nagging wife be handled best?

It is the Almighty's problem not man's. Those willing to be hanged have tried rat poison with success.

Generally speaking, who is more optimistic in life: man or woman?

The woman! She trusts a selfish vagrant through a life time to keep the home fires burning.

Define in simple words an ideal woman?

Mother!

What do you think of a girl who when kissed on one cheek turns the other in quiet submission?

Yet to be born!

Do you ever expect women to behave logically?

Their sex is all the logic.

Who made the women prostitutes?

Men and their stolen pleasures!

Is there no female monarchy anywhere in this vast universe?

Oh yes! In every home!

When do women look old?

When men lose interest in them.

Do you think it necessary for a girl to be a graduate?

Yes, it helps her to show off in the drawing rooms in a crowd of nitwits.

Does a woman lose her chastity on being simply kissed by a male?

That depends on the woman and the country she is born in. Even after a thousand Christmas kisses, a woman remains a virgin in the West. In India a false rumour is enough to make a virgin commit suicide.

Don't you think that the Indian ladies' dress is more attractive than the Western one?

It is the contents of the dress that are important. I have seen beautiful Benarsi sarees wrapped like bandages over filthy flesh.

A blush is becoming only when one is young. When an old woman blushes, what does it signify?

The blush has another meaning—modesty or some embarrassing memory.

What would you call a woman of 39 who longs to marry a lad of 19?

A man-eater.

Which would you prefer: an ugly faithful widow or a beautiful obliging refugee girl?

I love dogs and therefore loyalty

Boys of today say, "kick a girl and she will come to you" What do you say?

She comes all right but with a kick on her foot.

Is it true that women who smoke are unfit to be mothers?

In America almost all women smoke and yet they are mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers.

Is a chaste wife one who never looks at other men?

She does but with loving eyes of a sister.

Can a woman be loved thrice?

Oh yes, as a daughter, wife and mother And she has a fourth chance—the sweetest of all—as a sister

Do you think that modern girls can become good mothers?

Motherhood takes modernity out of life. The cry from the cradle still thrills the most sophisticated heart.

How is it that some women are never polite, unless there is company?

Those are the club women who sheathe their swords in a crowd and exhibit the shining scabbards as proof of their culture.

What is the value of tears?

Anything from an eyewash to an argument. Women don't put pain behind their tears these days but purpose

What do you think of a woman who smokes?

She wants to give her thoughts a smell of nicotine and thus coat the pill of poison.

When a woman yawns what does it signify?

Bad manners and a sleepless bed.

Have you got faith in the purity of woman?

I have immense faith in woman as the mother of humanity. Motherhood is a pure act-however tainted may be the man's touch.

Why do some young educated girls hanker after moneyed people?

It is easier to marry money than to earn it.

What is the difference between a mistress and a wife?

The mistress slaves to become a wife while the wife ends by being a master.

How does the Indian woman differ from the Western one?

In India a woman is not merely an item of picnic interest. She is looked upon as a sacred flame that must illuminate a home.

A woman who will tell her age will tell anything?

Anything, perhaps but not everything.

Give me the definition of a woman?

Look at your own mother and find your own definition. That is the final opinion men should have of women.

Why should a woman look into the mirror so often?

The mirror tells the story which a woman likes about herself.

Don't women with cat eyes look distinctive on the screen?

They just look cats and that is a feline distinction.

For how many years can a woman flirt?

As long as there is a lonely man in the landscape. I have seen a woman of sixty giving the bedside look to a boy of twenty-five. The boy was after the old woman's young daughter.

Can you please tell me how can one find the most beautiful woman in the world?

Look into your heart. That is where the most beautiful woman in the world lives.

Does a beautiful woman always remain beautiful?

Yes, if the face continues to reflect a beautiful mind.

When do women look more beautiful: when they smile, blush or have pearls in their eyes?

Smiles, blushes and tears are armaments of sex. A woman is most beautiful with anger in her face and love in her heart.

Do beauty and brains go together?

Sometimes and then hearts go Hiroshima.

Whom do our women consider better: 'Yes men' or 'no men'?

Women like men who say 'no' readily and 'yes' reluctantly. Women like a struggle in selling their ideas to men.

Why are women generally fond of flowers?

It is a mutual convention of delicacy. The flower also likes the woman. Both have fragrance which they dedicate to others.

Can you tell me whether modern girls should be given full freedom or not?

They take it whether you give it or not. Freedom is never given, it is arrogated.

It is said that Europe has devised a machine which reads the mind. What will the women do now?

Machines can read only something definite. A woman's mind is infinite.

What is the worst moment in a woman's life?

In a good woman's life, the frown of her husband!
In a bad woman's life the frown on her own face!

Men praise beauty of women. Do women also praise men?

Men use words, women use eyes.

How to keep the husband at home?

Women who carry rapiers in their mouth send their husbands out licking their wounds.

What is chastity in a woman? Is it virtue of the body or of the soul?

The body is the temple in which the soul burns like a divine flame. Defile the temple and watch the flame flickering.

What is the meaning of 'face value' and where is it used?

In clubs where women go fishing with a Max Factor bait.

When does a woman look ugliest?

When she has murder in her mind.

Is it true that a woman loves once and once only?

Which woman is this?

What beauty do men find in big-eyed women?

Bigger the eyes, better the peep into her soul.

What quality do you rate highest in a woman?

Silence which means talking when she is asked to.

Can a woman ever be trusted?

Trust or no trust, man spends a life-time with her.

When does a woman open her heart?

When she closes her love affair

A man is known by the company he keeps. How is a woman known?

By the man she keeps.

What does the average woman want from life?

Coin, clothes and cosmetics.

At what age does a woman consider herself old?

When man breaks her mirror with words that singe the ear.

Is bad company the worst misfortune of man?

A bad woman is the most heart-rending misfortune in a man's life. She eats his vitals and drinks his blood.

What do the cat eyes of a woman signify?

An obvious proof of her species.

Whom does a girl prefer: a smoker or a non-smoker?

A girl doesn't like to kiss a smoking kiln.

Are women better than men or worse?

As a race women are better than men.

When and why a woman becomes wild?

When she sees a rival without the chance of competing.

"A woman is the shadow of a man". What do you think about this?

A woman must be something more than that. Men don't get scared of their own shadows.

Nowadays we come across many hen-pecked husbands. Why?

Because modern girls are fast losing their femininity and behave like men.

Why do tears come so quickly and easily in a woman's eyes?

She has too much water on the brain with her pride swimming in it.

Has a woman got a right to a baby if she needs one?

A woman always needs one and she has the world's right to get one.

What is best in a woman?

Her desire to remain the cradle of humanity.

Why do Indian women take special care of their make-up especially when they go visiting?

The real mirror of a woman is in the eyes of the other women. If she scores a jealous glint in the other eyes, her heart sighs with satisfaction.

Which plays a greater part in a woman's career: beauty or talent?

Beauty! But when beauty and talent meet in that world's problem called 'woman', often the most irresistible devil is born.

Who excels in love a mother or a wife?

A mother's love is a romance of childhood while that of a wife is a rainbow of youth. On the heritage of a mother's love young people build their little nest to perpetuate the cradle song and create more mothers.

What would you rather have: a favourite book, an interesting woman or a fine singer?

You read a book once and perhaps hear a song several times but an interesting woman is an unending experience.

Which is the most loveable thing in a woman: character or beauty?

Character is the soul of beauty and adds to the glory of a woman.

What do you think of a woman who always suspects her husband?

A woman with a nose that sniffs but doesn't smell.

Differentiate between the devil and a wicked woman?

Don't insult the devil.

What is the general ambition of girls?

It is too general to be pinned down to one thing.

What is the secret of the force behind a woman's tears?

The chivalry of man.

Whenever women write letters there is a postscript. Can you tell us why?

Women think in snatches and write in instalments.

What is a blonde?

A half-baked brunette.

Why is the blush of a woman so short-lived?

Nowadays women carry a Max Factor blush which lasts from breakfast to supper.

Why do husbands tell so many lies?

Because wives don't believe truth when it is told. Women like glamorous goods and lies have all the glamour human imagination can endow.

How many kinds of women are there in this world?

Only two kinds, good and bad.

To what extent can a woman be trusted?

She can be relied upon to be a mother. Isn't that enough?

How much freedom can a career girl enjoy?

All the freedom except free love, unless she is prepared to take risks.

Why do women rake up malicious gossip about persons they dislike?

Gossip is chewing gum to a woman. It sharpens her teeth for the husband.

How many kinds of widows are there?

Two: those that have burnt their boats and those that still hope for a new oar.

Why are good women like ivy?

They cling and cling till the oak itself comes down.

Why does woman age more quickly than man?

She gives her years to creation.

What is the difference between stolen goods and a woman's secrets?

A woman's secrets are not stolen goods. They are tumours of her character which grow within her.

Women often prefer the wrong man. Why?

A woman positively starts with the right man but later he evidently turns out to be the wrong one. That's marriage.

How many good women are there in the world?

For every good man there is one good woman.

Have you met a woman philosopher and if so what do you think of her?

Women become philosophers when they become old mothers and when they become mothers you don't 'think' of them.

How is it that women always go in for emotional arts?

Women live on emotions and starve on reason. When a woman becomes reasonable she loses weight.

Is habitual blushing a sign of modesty?

It is a nervous disease that needs medical attention

Why is a woman so very inquisitive about her neighbour's affairs?

To a woman the neighbour is the second mirror.

Being a medical student, I feel that woman is not at all a beautiful creature?

You are looking at her in parts. Put those parts together and look at the tantalizing picture she makes and you will know why even the gods threw up the sponge.

When does a woman look older than she is?

When she gives up the competitive fight or when she lives in a god-forsaken place where night follows the day without visitors and events.

How would you distinguish between a virgin and a widow?

One has clear, innocent eyes, while in the other's there is a cataract of experience.

Do women dress to attract the admiration of men or the envy of other women?

Both, plus the smile from their mirror!

Does a woman not know her own mind?

That is what a man imagines and allows the woman to escape punishment for her sins.

Does a romantic woman frame her own laws of romance?

Romance is a Bohemian game and has no fixed rules.

Why is it that when speeches are made ladies are first addressed and then the gentlemen?

It is an old Victorian courtesy which even women don't appreciate nowadays. Many women wear trousers these days and would prefer to be addressed as gentlemen.

Can a woman play with the hearts of two men?

She can, provided men have hearts. What we mistake for heart is usually the man's pride.

Describe the difference that you have noted between the average Indian woman and the American woman?

The average Indian woman is the man's shadow while the average American woman is his stature.

How is it that a woman looks more beautiful when she is angry?

Only in coquettish temper. When a woman is in a real temper she looks ugly. Even Gandhiji looked ugly in temper.

Does woman ever confess her mistake?

Not until she makes a bigger one and quotes the previous one as a justification.

What is it that struck you most in the American women?

Their tongues which struck a tick-tick every second like a clock.

Which is more effective on women: whistling or winking?

Neither! Women don't like demonstrations. Women have sharp eyes. Cross their horizon once. If they get interested they will fill up your landscape. Whistling and winking are disgusting forms of attracting women.

What do girls talk about when they are alone?

They dream about impossible things that should happen to them. The things, however, avoid them and happen to others. And the girls grumble.

What is a damsel called respectively at the following ages: 13, 24 and 34?

That depends on what is in her lap. If she has a toy then call her a daughter; if a man, call her a wife; if a baby call her a mother. The ages are immaterial.

Why is 'it' called a 'spinster'?

Because 'it' missed the bus when the bones had good upholstery.

Corn, clothes and cosmetics—do they make a woman happy?

They make her a coquette and a coquette needs a court to be happy.

Between an ill-tempered woman and an angry tigress whom do you fear more?

If I shoot the tigress I get a reward But if I do that to a woman I get the noose.

What happens when a comely maiden starts thinking?

She wears dark goggles and hides ugly thoughts.

Have you ever heard the throbs of a woman's heart?

When you are so close as to hear them with the ear, it is hardly necessary to.

Tell me what a woman's best hobby can be?

If she turns her hubby into a hobby, life will be one long romance.

What is a sight of shame for men and Gods?

A woman in rags of costume and character.

What are the ways of winning the heart of a woman?

Hearts are won with hearts. To win one you have to stake one. It is an even chance.

Do you know anything about women?

Not much beyond the fact that they say one thing and mean another.

Who is the dearest girl in the world?

The nearest and most willing!

When a woman speuks with the velocity of a mail train, what on earth can stop her?

The sight of your back. That is the time to take a brisk walk.

Some women have such a way of looking at men—?

That men give a last look and die without a struggle. Where did you find these women?

What happened after Adam gave Eve an apple to eat?

The apple became a pumpkin and made Eve the mother of man.

A woman's husband and child are both dangerously ill. Whom should the woman look after?

The husband! He can always give her another child.

What is the difference between the tears of a woman of eighteen and of a woman of forty?

At eighteen they are warm, at forty they are sour.

What do you think of society girls in the arms of others especially when the lights are put off?

Marble posts for drunkards to lean on.

Which is more intoxicating: woman or wine?

It depends on how much you have of each. It is the dose that intoxicates, not the stuff.

What is the difference between man and the devil?

If you subtract "man" from the "devil" you will have "woman" on hand.

Should a woman who has had pre-marital experience be allowed to marry and lead a respectable life? Or is one blot on her reputation enough to ostracize her from the ranks of respectability?

If a man can have pre-marital orgies and settle down as a respectable member of society after marriage, why should this privilege be denied to a woman? With his vain, possessive instinct, man has enveloped the woman with all codes of morality leaving himself a free lark. If the sex-act is a sin before marriage, does it become a virtue just because a few priests grant a social license for an act

which must always remain private, physical and intimate?

What significant contribution, do you think, the fair sex is making these days?

They are replacing the war losses in man power and preparing a new stock for the next mass slaughter.

Don't loose-tongued women prove pests to society?

There would be no 'society' without them.

What is lovelier than a soft feminine skin?

The woolly coat of a dog with a friendly warmth in every hair.

What do you think of a philosopher's wife?

She is one more leg to his arm-chair?

What is that weapon with which a woman conquers a man?

Patience, devilish patience which irritates a man till he throws up the sponge finally.

What kind of a woman is a rarity?

Every woman is a rare piece. You can never find two of the same kind.

Does jealousy make a woman silly?

It makes her a devil and devils are not silly.

What is a school girl complexion, by the way?

It is nature's rouge on a virgin which daughters take from their mothers and pass on to their own daughters in their turn.

How do you analyse the woman's mind?

It is a synthesis of confusion.

What are crocodile tears?

Tears which women shed to defame crocodiles.

What is a girl without a figure?

A bamboo blowpipe!

Are women attractive to men?

Only if her witty remarks punctuate his good humour.

When are women at war?

Always! Women are children of conflict-inside, outside and beyond.

*You praise and condemn women in the same breath.
Aren't you a funny guy?*

It is a funny creature I have to describe. She is at once good and bad.

Are there no women worshippers in any temple of the world?

In India, every home has become a temple because women worship their husbands. Not that men have become gods!

How does the heart break?

By dashing against the iron inside the soul of a woman

Would you advocate the use of lipstick by all housewives?

If Indian housewives take to lipsticks, clubs would be deserted and husbands would become more domestic.

Why does beauty make a woman proud whereas love makes her submissive?

Beauty is a show room argument while love is a domestic sentiment.

Why are ladies and specially married women against men smoking cigarettes?

Smoking leaves behind a stink which married women can't escape.

Which sex does God love most?

Woman, seeing that He makes man work for her so hard and so long.

PHILOSOPHY

What is the shape of God?

God and Satan have the same shape, only different complexions.

Is age measured by the watch?

Time is the endless ladder of humanity. Wherever one stops it is death.

Who discovered money?

The same man who discovered misery.

Is the proverbial devil man or woman?

The devil has no sex, it has only a reputation.

How many minutes are there in the darkest hour?

There is an eternity of suspense and agony.

Have you ever thought of Friday, the departure day of Jesus, Abraham Lincoln and Mahatma Gandhi? How do you like to regard that day?

Millions of others die daily on Fridays. Death has only seven days to collect its crop and in this cycle of seven days it reaps the world.

What do you think of a man who sleeps with spectacles on?

He will also need them on his last journey to find his way.

When will our tears turn into pearls?

When you put the salt of repentance in them.

What's your opinion on mourning?

Nothing disturbs the dead body. Mourning is the incense the living burn at the altar of death. It is the one drama with a dead hero.

Do you fear God?

Much less than I fear men. God does not acquire prejudices as fast as men do.

If God switched off the Sun tomorrow, which God forbid, what would happen?

The world would be sinless. It is light that makes darkness a long hour of sin.

Why do people generally begin worshipping God in their old age?

By that time the Devil becomes anaemic and makes room for God.

Can a man become peaceful by becoming richer and richer?

Gold has weight which lies heavy on the conscience.

Can you see God with eyes shut?

With my eyes open I see men and when I shut them I see their ghosts. Men have crowded God out of this world.

How many kinds of deaths are there in this world?

One that frightens and the other that kills.

What is a mirror for?

It is a life-saver for millions of men and women at all ages.

Can a blind man walk without a stick?

In death men close their eyes and go to heaven without a stick.

Between a child, a woman and a man, which is the noblest work of God?

God Himself is the noblest creation of man. After this supreme creation, man settled down to be a sinner. The divine spark, however, flickers most in the child.

What is the difference between a mistake and a sin?

Mistake is a friendly estimate of an act, sin is the prudish one.

If vice is filtered what will be the residue?

Desire!

What is truth?

Poison—to be used with great care!

It is said in the Bible that God created man after his own image?

God didn't write the Bible. Men wrote it and in doing so defamed Him as a miracle-monger.

Is death painful?

Yes, to the dear ones around.

Do you believe in God? If so, define God?

Once you begin to define faith, God becomes an idol in a temple and that is what He is not.

What is the utility of sorrow?

It salts the joys and makes them tasty and enjoyable.

Which flower do you like best?

One with a fragrance that does not intrude.

Have you ever sought revenge and did you find it 'sweet'?

Revenge is a fiery passion which burns up the crucible long before it does any harm to another.

How does a beautiful scenery affect you?

I feel the presence of God near me.

What do angels look like?

Dead bodies!

Why is there evil in this world?

To advertise virtue!

Can we get another saint and holy man like Gandhiji?

Not for another 2000 years. These types are very rare. They are made from the accumulated virtue of millions through ages. In about 2000 years, humanity collects just enough virtue to give us a saint like Gandhiji.

Why does the world fear death?

The world doesn't, the individual does. Death makes no dent in the world which goes on merrily taking its colour from the new crop every day.

At what age does a man leave off being a fool?

A fool has no age He doesn't grow.

Why is it that neither riches nor poverty brings happiness to a man?

Poverty creates a thirst for riches and riches increase the hunger for more riches. It is the eternal greed that spells misery for the mortal.

Why is truth often described as naked?

Because it always exposes men and things.

Do you love death?

I do when pain becomes hateful.

"Experience is nothing but the recollection of one's mistakes," said Oscar Wilde?

And also a review of other people's mistakes!

When a flower was a bud, where was the perfume?

In its family reputation!

Does God jest with man as men do among themselves?

Human life is God's supreme jest which man has turned into a tragedy of tears.

What does love mean to a blind young girl?

It gives eyesight to her youth.

What do you think of the butterfly taking honey from the flower?

It is a daylight outrage on the unsuspecting flower which opens its petals to lend the world its beauty and fragrance

If roses had no thorns what would have happened?

Their fragrance would not have been less but poets would not have sung about them. Poets need thorns to perfume their poetry.

For what purpose did God make man?

Either to worship Him or to run Him down but always to advertise Him as the Supreme Being! Man is the best advertisement of God's mistake.

Why is darkness chosen to commit most of our evil acts?

While the day is the crucible of virtue, night is the cradle of sin. With darkness virtue loses its sight and crime comes into its own. The one place which the Sun can't disinfect is the mind of the evil man where all the hours are dark and all the thoughts are sinful.

Do you believe that prayer is really answered?

Yes, man often answers our prayer to God and proves that man is made in His image

What is the best preparation for tomorrow?

A good smiling time today.

If there is no destruction in God's creation, what would happen to the world?

God would have to accept paying guests in heaven the way we are multiplying in twos, threes and fives.

How do you react when you see cheap women in the bazaar?

I see nothing cheap in this world except human life. What you think to be cheap, I consider to be unfortunate.

What is the difference between a bud and a flower?

A bud is the promise while the flower is its fulfilment.

What is beauty to a blind man?

An endless dream!

What is philosophy?

Wisdom in adversity.

When does a man rest in peace?

When he travels horizontally on his way to another world.

Will there be an end to this world?

Yes, when you and I die.

What is there between man and heaven?

The hell of a world with its struggle and starvation!

Which do you think is a very safe profession?

The grave digger's! His customers never complain.

Is death a healer?

It is the ultimate cure for the chronic desire of living.

What is your opinion about the aim, "Eat, drink and be merry?"

That is the universal aim towards which humanity is struggling through labour, flattery, hatred and bloodshed. It is not an easy goal to reach.

Why do tragic pictures leave lasting impressions on the human mind?

Because human joys are painted in rainbow hues while the tragedies are written in drops of blood.

Who is the busiest man on earth?

The thinker!

Why is the eye so prominent in poetry?

The eye is the peephole of the soul and poets believe in writing soulful poetry.

When does a bud fade?

A bud never fades. It either dies or blossoms. It is the flower that fades.

Does vice become virtue when it is sheltered by the aristocrats of society?

Even virtue becomes a sin in the lazy lap of the rich.

What do the thorns of a rose represent?

That its fragrance is forbidden to the clumsy ones.

Why don't people accept wisdom from a person of young age?

Wisdom is an old egg which young ones are not expected to lay.

✓Has God bound and tied himself to prayer?

God is a greedy soul who needs constant flattery. Millions are sending up prayers of praise every minute but He acts the deaf to get more praise. If God heard all the prayers of human beings, the world would be a worse mess than it is today.

Have you ever seen God?

I have felt His presence in the different pains of life. God is both love and pain.

Isn't truth usually bitter?

It is if there is a taste of falsehood in the mouth.

What is an ideal? Is it something which can never be attained or which should always be possible to attain?

It is a mirage that invites a thirsty traveller and goads him to greater effort on the journey of life.

What is the difference between tears of joy and tears of sorrow?

Tears take their taste from emotions and when in joy they smile and dance in the eyes.

Shall we know our own in heaven?

Yes, if you don't forget them on earth.

If truth is poison, how do wise men advise us to swallow it?

In small quantities it has therapeutic value.

Why are some babies born dead?

No surplus virtue with the parents to light a little spark!

Is it well for us that the future is hidden from us?

The struggle for living is one long search for the hidden. Even God, man's final destination, is a well-hidden Divinity keeping man constantly in search. If the veil is torn there would be no future and therefore no life for man.

Which is the noblest profession in the world?

Becoming a saint. A saint raises his hand only to bless and is in turn blessed with a free living.

Why has the human mind no rest?

Because it lives on greed and dies for power.

What time is more suitable for committing suicide if life has ceased to be interesting?

Death is not fastidious Any time is good time for this old-fashioned escape.

Why do the power-loving men want to be surrounded by mediocre people?

Power needs a halo which little lights give.

Why did God create Adam and Eve?

To keep up an eternal conflict and rush for His arbitration.

How is it that blind people are generally gay and cheerful?

People who can't smile with their eyes smile with their faces to push away the tragedy of their life at least temporarily

What is the limit in the pursuit of pleasure?

Pleasure is the limit, pursuit is the method.

What message have the flowers to give to the world?

A short life of beauty and fragrance in a silent and smiling service to the world.

Past looks so very sweet. Why?

Because its edge can't hurt any more

What is luck?

Something that provides one more proof of God and His blind management of our affairs.

Empty stomachs are foul counsellors!

So are power crazy brains! But when stomachs revolt brains die.

*Is there any necessity of illusion in our daily life?
 often dulls the edge of misery and lends opti-
 even to a cynic.*

*1 u believe that fortune is a lazy goddess?
 blind and unreasonable!*

*2 re any relation between death and darkness?
 7 are twins.*

*2 3 clothing necessary?
 give nudity its thrill.*

*o you think of practising virtue without be-
 lieving in it?*

The practice of virtue is a virtue in itself. Belief
 will automatically come later.

What is fragrance to a flower?

Its gesture of goodwill towards the world.

*When one swears, should one put any feeling into
 it at all?*

There is always more emotion and sincerity in
 curses than in blessings.

*What do you think will be the last thing civilized
 by man?*

The last is himself and he took it up as his first
 job.

How to stop time from running away?

Race with it!

✓What is death?

An opportunity to begin again!

If revenge is a sort of wild justice what do you think is forbearance?

Forbearance is divine justice. It has the patience of God.

Is fame a food that dead men eat?

Dead men digest it better than the living.

What is the difference between nature and God?

Nature is the halo of God. Even God needs glamour.

What is the relation between pain and pleasure?

Pleasure is the silver lining of pain.

What is the difference between truth and God?

Truth is dangerous, God is harmless. Try some truth on the Congress ministers and you will be in jail. You can defame God and still run all over the world a free man.

Is pity a bad thing?

Pity is a demoralizing sentiment. It has a patronising and aristocratic flavour which is highly unsuited to our democratic age. Self pity is worse. It is a murder of one's personality.

Define pleasure?

The sweet edge of pain!

Define sweet pain!

It is a figure of speech.

Can death be more painful than life?

Death has an undying reputation for relieving pain. It is life that is painful.

When all are asleep in the night the stars keep awake. Why?

They go to bed during the day.

Who rules the world: God or Satan?

God rules it but Satan runs it

Why did God create flowers?

To give the world His definition of gentle beauty and polite fragrance

What message has the night to tell you?

That the day will soon dawn with its eternal grind of work and worry.

What is it that keeps the world alive?

The uncertainty of death! If human beings could time death, they wouldn't bother about living and kicking.

✓ *Can a vagabond be a philosopher?*

He has a better chance. In his feet is the pain of experience.

✓ *What is your conception of hell and heaven?*

Heaven is the resting place after a hell of a world.

Does Mahatma Gandhi wear clothes in heaven or does he live in one dhoti there also?

In heaven they are dressed in virtue. Clothes are needed on earth to cover the conscience of man.

What does a blind man see in his dreams?

A blind man's world should be one long dream with no night and day, no rainbow of colours nor any frustrations of greed and ambition. It is one long night to the onlooker but to the blind darkness is eternal daylight.

What is pain?

A reminder of God!

BEAUTY

What is beauty when the light is put out?

A brute's delight.

Where does beauty end?

In the bed room usually.

Which is better: to worship God or to worship beauty?

In beauty there is a divinity.

Why is the Eastern beauty called a 'cold' beauty though the climate is hot, while the Western one is called 'hot' though the climate is cold?

A beauty is like a hot-water bottle—cold at a distance but hot on the abdomen. The rubber has nothing to do with it—it is the heat or the water inside that matters.

In a beauty competition, would you vote only for features?

Voting for features is like voting for a statue.

What types of eyes attract you: dreamy eyes or gazelle eyes?

The absent mind takes a dreamy look, the roving one the gazelle's. Give me the soulful eyes which intelligently reflect the slightest ripple of emotions in the heart.

If beauty is squeezed what do we get?

More beauty.

When beauty begins to bloom in a woman who is the first to be conscious of it?

The neighbour who makes her look at herself twice.

Who is the most beautiful woman in the world?

The one that sits in your eye without bringing tears.

What is the difference between beauty and complexion?

'Beauty' is what you bring, 'complexion' is what Max Factor gives.

In what dress does a girl look beautiful?

Dressed in her own youth and addressed by the desire of her admirer.

What is ugliness?

An indisputable advertisement for beauty.

Is beauty in a girl a virtue?

Yes, if framed in domestic surroundings.

When is a woman said to have celestial beauty?

When the man loses his head.

Can beauty be kept fresh throughout life?

Age cannot wither beauty that penetrates the skin and enters the soul.

When does beauty need camouflage?

When brutes are out hunting.

What makes a woman beautiful: beauty or youth?

Beauty is the blush of youth. In age, it still remains a relieving feature of a woman's face.

Does a beautiful woman ever look ugly? If so, when?

When she is in an ugly temper. Temper is one passion women shouldn't flirt with. It scorches their beauty.

What fascinates you more: a beautiful maiden or natural scenery?

What is the difference between the two? Isn't a beautiful maiden so much of nature's glory?

What is the difference between "glamour" and "beauty?"

Glamour is the shine over beauty and the mirror in which beauty sees its reflection.

When does beauty need mystery?

When it fights shy of exposure.

What is beauty?

The desire to look at things beautifully.

Do you believe that the modern ladies will ruin the culture of India with all their pomp and show?

Ancient women who are considered our cultural ancestors didn't have less of pomp and show. A woman always dresses for the day and our culture is not tied up with a woman's dress.

Most beautiful women of the world are usually the unhappiest. Why?

In an ugly world beauty is envied and hated.

When can beauty become monotonous?

Like everything else in the world beauty must grow and grow more beautiful and versatile. When it stops growing, it palls.

Does a girl who uses excessive make-up annoy you?

Excessive make-up does and so does no make-up. I believe in women dressing their faces as well as their bodies because the face is the only part of their body women show to the world and it is necessary to present it as attractively as possible.

Why does beauty attract youth?

Because youth itself is beauty and like attracts like.

Beauty is a temporary tyranny. Why?

Because it melts the heart, hypnotizes the mind and sets fire to the senses.

If, according to you, beauty is an endless dream to the blind, what is it to you?

An evergreen provocation!

Most of the world's beautiful faces have empty heads. Why?

If every flower had fragrance, the world would have become a great garden.

What is the meaning of 200 yard beauties?

Complete disillusionment at 2 yards.

SEX

What is the best book you have read on sex?

I have not read one yet and I didn't know that one could get sex out of a book. Did Adam read a book on sex when he met Eve?

Is sex more essential than a good story for a successful motion picture?

Sex is the first story of the world and will remain the last. A better story than sex has yet to be told.

How many sexes are there in the world?

Productive, effective and decorative.

What is sex?

A physical expression of the mental desire.

What makes you hesitate to reveal sex in its nakedness?

Sex becomes a science when stripped and an art when draped. I am an artist and not a scientist.

What is sex morality?

Clean desires, clean bodies and clean environments.

What is the most interesting topic of conversation in sexology?

Celibacy!

What happens to the youthful spectators when there is an excessive sex-appeal in a picture?

They take dreams to bed and get up with a headache next morning.

Suggest some means to avoid sexual attraction?

Drop your eyelids and close the windows through which temptation enters.

What is the psychology of sex?

It is the physiology of desire.

How do you define a virgin and where to find one?

A virgin is the one who is still on the verge and not yet pushed over. This is rather an antique commodity in a modern world but you may stumble on it in rural surroundings.

Do you condemn kissing as an immoral institution?

No! Kissing is a good breather when Adam loses interest.

Is the world revolving on the pivot of sex?

It did once when life was simple and human instincts were normal. Now man seems to get more from power politics than from the warmth of sex.

What is meant by winking?

Flicking the lids to get rid of the desire in the eye.

Is there any cultural aspect of love besides mere sexual attraction?

The cradle is the cultural liability of love.

When a Hindu actress marries a Muslim actor or vice versa, what religion does the mixed couple follow?

Like money sex has no religion.

Why is it that some old husbands having young wives are as blind as bats?

Passion gives a cataract to an aged eye and veils its vision.

Where does old age begin?

In bed!

Please define sex?

The he and she of human desire.

YOUTH

You are so fond of youth Doesn't it wither with age?

Youth is not an age of the flesh but a spring of the mind As flesh becomes old the mind should become young with age.

When does a girl become a woman?

When she wakes up and opening her eyes sees the man in a boy

What would you say if you saw a young man and a young woman always in each other's company, although not married?

Playing with fire and toying with the future.

When beauty begins to blossom in a woman who is the first to be conscious of it?

Her clothes! They begin to be misfits.

What time does a girl take to become a woman?

It is usually an overnight transformation.

When does a girl start understanding the language of the eyes?

When straight lines become curves.

What is the difference between a 'girl' and a 'woman'?

A girl is the 'warning' of the 'danger' ahead.

What beautifies girls?

The sudden realization that friends of childhood have become dangerous companions of youth.

What is the age of a blush?

The blush is a meteor of emotion which races with time.

At what age should a girl be allowed to date?

When her nights become long and days too short.

When does youth fade?

When the world around looks old and tired.

When a girl is over twenty she mainly hides two things, her age and her dreams. Why?

That's what you think Her age is written across her while her dreams dwell in her eyes. What does she hide then?

What in your opinion makes a man old—his advanced age or his pessimistic perspective of life?

The age and outlook of his wife.

Why is it that our so-called rising generation does not at all like to rise early in the morning?

Whatever human beings may do, a bed likes its seven hours' load daily to keep itself in condition. When a bed has waited long into the night, like a loyal wife, it is reluctant to throw out its weight in the early hours.

RELIGION

What is your religion?

Worshipping beauty with God as witness.

How does a temple differ from a mosque?

Not in the character of God but in the costumes of the worshippers.

What are churches, mosques and temples?

Houses where gods sleep and where human beings make a vain attempt to wake them up.

Why religions were founded, are founded and will be founded in future?

Religion is the conscience of sin. Once in a while some one comes along and excavates the human conscience from the pile of unholy acts and we call it religion.

Why don't you go to the temple every Sunday?

Hindus don't believe in Sunday gods.

May I know the utility of God?

Useful as a touchstone for human virtue and some one to pray to and blame when things go wrong

What is the height of love?

One can reach the feet of God.

Have you any objection to offering your prayers in a mosque?

None whatever! A mosque is better lighted than a temple which has dark recesses where sin often dwells.

Suppose you are offered either of the following: a dip in the 'holy' Ganges or a warm shower bath in the Hotel Taj, which one will you go in for?

I would add eau de cologne to make the Taj water holy and enjoy. The sanctity of the Ganges is in the mind and not in the water.

Why do people change religion with their marriage?

Religion is not found in the warm bed of a loving mistress but grows in the sacred cloisters of a searching soul.

Are priests ravens attracted by the odour of death?

Why in death alone? They haunt the living through a life time.

How many gods do you worship?

One and He is also deaf and dumb. Can you beat my misfortune?

How did you feel when the Harijans were thrust into our sacred temples?

The gods didn't leave their pedestals and run away at the sight of the Harijans nor did the priests protest seeing that they have secured more customers. Temples are those whose gods are universal.

Do you think it necessary to go to the temple, mosque or church to worship God, who is omnipresent?

I go to a temple to admire architecture and yet I believe in God. If God had lived in a temple men would have found Him.

Where is your God, in a church, a temple or a masjeed?

I have a gipsy God. He goes through all the places you mention and then comes home to sleep with me.

What is the best prayer to God?

Remember Him but ask Him nothing. Immediately you ask Him for something, He gets frozen.

Do you think it would be better for us to stick to the religion of our birth or to adopt the one considered best?

The child takes its first sip of religion from its mother's breast and the first taste never disappears through ten conversions.

How will you define Gandhism?

A religion preached by one man and followed by one man

What is the speciality in Hinduism that a Hindu nced cling to it?

The numerous beatings it takes and yet pops out like a cuckoo from a clock.

Why is a recent convert more fanatic than others?

In his effort to still the little voice of conscience, he makes more noise, for conversions are rarely convictions

Will Islam perish in India?

Never! And why should it in our secular state? Islam is a great religion but its very democracy has been turned into fanaticism by some of its followers. That is also true of many other religions and it is a great pity because never before did humanity need religion so badly as now.

How would you answer this charge of a foreigner "Hinduism has no history"?

Hinduism is the history of all foreign and Indian races. India was the cradle of Aryan civilization when Europeans were mere barbarians.

What is your every day prayer to God?

I only remember Him. I don't ask anything knowing that He is very slow and I have no patience.

Is it true that generally women have greater regard for religion than men?

Women need spiritual guidance to understand the brute in man.

Some Muslim and Christian actors and actresses adopt Hindu names. Why not Hinduism also?

You cannot adopt Hinduism. One has to be born a Hindu to inherit a spiritual heritage which is thousands of years old.

Is there a spiritual world?

There is I guess. I have met a few from the other world and I am still confused about the phenomenon.

Has religion got anything to do with culture?

Religion is the culture of the soul.

"Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom". Do you fear God?

Heavens no! Why should I when He is supposed to be all merciful?

Is terror of society the basis of morals and terror of God the secret of religion?

Terror has a short life. Society and religion are not based on such a flimsy passion. Just consider the age of our religion and society and you will find an answer.

What are the sacred duties of a man and a woman in this world?

To make this world a garden of God and grow in it the silent flowers of devotion and service to humanity.

Which is the most religious place for Hindus in India?

Their own homes, where the prayer and the lullaby can be sung together in the warmth of the home fires.

What is the food of God?

Praise, endless praise, written in poems and sung with music. But when man demands the same food, we call it flattery.

May I know what is your definition of religion?

Religion is the human conscience confined to a code book from which people read quotations to others.

What is the best saga of violence?

Bhagwat Gita! It destroyed a great race of warriors with the rhythm of poetry and punctuation of philosophy.

What is the easiest way to please God?

Flatter him with a daily prayer but don't ask him for anything. He has willing ears for praise but none for woes.

What is the relation between the country and its religion?

A country is the temple, religion its divine flame which people, the devotees, keep burning.

What is the use of muttering prayers in Arabic and Sanskrit by people who do not understand them?

God is evidently a great linguist. The act of praying is more important than the words of the prayer. In any case we have a deaf God and words don't count.

Why does not God appear before us when we pray to Him?

The illusion of His existence is the greatest glamour of God which His appearance in form will destroy and people will stop further prayers. And God is a great glutton for prayers. He wants them from saints and sinners alike. He is not like our Congress ministers refusing revenue from drunkards, gamblers and sinners.

Why are priests still flourishing when each one can pray for himself?

The first man who gave us God became a priest and in doing so acquired invisible assets which will pay him dividends through eternity

To which sex does God belong?

If God had sex, heaven would have been crowded with pimps, priests and politicians.

If God is all-pervading, why not we worship him in our own hearts instead of doing so in churches, mosques or temples?

Hearts become temples of God only when the mind is lit up with knowledge. Temples, mosques and churches are built for the ignorant masses to practise the self hypnosis of mass prayers.

Is God impertinent?

Oh no! He is polite and indifferent

FILM STARS

What precautions do the film actors take when they act in a romantic scene with an actress?

They wear the company's costumes

What does love mean to an actress?

Just another dialogue for which the producer pays.

When does an actress become a 'star'?

When the masses pick bits of her personality and go to bed with them.

Film actresses, like wine, improve as they mature?

But they become less intoxicating.

How does a film star look before her make-up?

Just as mummy ushered her.

Which is the most valuable thing an actress can be robbed off?

Her face—by the camera man.

What does an actress do after thirty-five?

She competes with little school girls and can't even add up years.

Is there any film actress in the world who has only one legal husband?

All have one legal husband.

When divorce makes 'virtual widows', why do some actresses indulge in it?

That's widowhood without tears—the breath-bell before the next round.

"Knock and the door will be opened". How far is this true of our film actresses and producers?

Doors are old fashioned and many of the stars are too modern to fix doors to their rooms.

Do film stars worship God?

No! God worships them and keeps them going.

Who do you think is our most over-exposed actress?

Almost all. Only gynecologists can see the rest.

Up to what age can a film star stay a favourite?

Till she is six children old.

If a tax is imposed upon virgins, will it be of any use to society?

The government will collect huge amounts from the film actresses because non-payment would amount to a confession.

Why do you praise actors and actresses after they die and not while they live?

A living artiste is a standing menace. The dead ones don't give new performances.

"A rolling stone gathers no moss". Why does this not apply to actresses?

They are precious stones.

Do our actresses change their minds as often as they change their garments?

To change, one needs a mind.

Can an actress keep her character?

If she has one, no one will steal it. Character is not taken, it is surrendered.

Do all stars go to races?

Many do. Some for seeing the horses run and some for giving others a run.

When do 'starlets' become 'stars'?

When the little one carries big producers in her tiny handbag.

Do our actresses like sunlight or moonlight?

For work they need studio light, for vanity they like limelight and for their romance they prefer moonlight. Sunlight they use for resting.

Do our film stars go to hell or heaven after death?

Straight to heaven because hell they live through on earth.

Why is it difficult to marry a film actress?

Because you don't know which expression of hers you can hold for a life-time.

The popular stars of yesterday look withered today. Why?

Film stars are flowers of mass passions and wither in the winter of public disapproval.

How is it that film stars never ask you questions?

How can they? They carry all the replies to all the questions you can possibly ask.

What type of an actress do you like most?

The one in whom the woman dominates and art lies concealed.

When is a filmfan overjoyed?

When he gets a photo of his favourite star by telling lies.

Do actresses pray to God?

Yes, tin gods.

What will happen if some actress suddenly becomes a somnambulist?

She might return to her own bedroom.

Differentiate between stars in the sky and stars in the Indian film world?

Those in the sky twinkle and soothe. Those on earth sing and bore.

Are there any 'pin-up' girls in our film industry?

You need legs to pin-up. We have only faces to hide.

Do film stars ever give presents to each other? If so, what?

Some exchange their lovers in mutual affection—some toss up epithets and the rest avoid each other.

How would an old and retired actress recall her youth?

By describing the charms of her youthful daughter.

Have any of the film actresses ever given birth to triplets?

Very often! They are the producer, the director and the hero.

Do film stars twinkle in the dark?

When they do, things come to light

Is not a good deal of national wealth given to dogs in paying fat salaries to actors?

Even to use an idiom, don't insult the dogs. Their proverbial loyalty deserves more respect.

What power you have in yourself! You have not yet entangled yourself in the meshes of a film star?

I know most of the doctors who attend on our film stars and the doctors have frightening stories to tell.

Do the film actresses know how to cook?

They cook well. Each of them has a couple of buildings.

How can I become the friend of an actress?

That is a problem of high finance and needs a huge parental fortune.

When does a film actor or actress get dejected with life?

When the bank starts refusing cheques.

Which is a rainy day in the life of an average actress?

A dry night is usually the rainy day and old age is usually the season of innocence.

What pains a film star most?

Her husband's interference in her work.

Why are actresses ever changing their eyebrows?

Different winks require different eyebrows.

What do you consider to be the secret of success of our film actresses?

The cataract in the eyes of the masses and the tumour in their brain.

How do the married female stars feel when they have to act with strangers?

Married stars have blunt edges and strangers can't sharpen them easily. Those who overeat never wake up with an appetite.

Do you keep any sort of record of the film stars?

I have seen them grow before my eyes. I know even their moles.

How does an actress feel when lonely?

That the world around her is gradually learning to behave.

What is more attractive in an American actress: her hips or her lips?

All her tips have to be attractive to make the people tipsy.

Define a glamour boy?

The boy who finds his god in the mirror.

Why are film actresses becoming fat and fatter from picture to picture?

They have put the producers on a reducing diet.

If all the mirrors are kept away from actresses for some days, how will they judge their beauty?

By the sale of tickets at the cinemas.

Can an actress be a good wife?

If she acts at home as well as she does on the screen you cannot expect a good wife.

What would happen if our actors practise yoga?

Yoga would become the first crime of the nation.

What is the forbidden fruit of the film garden?

The star in whom the vested interest has a stake

What is modesty to woman in the film land?

Identically the same ornament as to the woman outside the films

Do you think glamour girls make desirable wives?

Good women are wives first and glamour girls afterwards.

Do our film actresses invite film actors when they give birth to babies?

Some of them should invite the producers to name the baby correctly.

Do you think that the character of a society girl is affected in any way by joining films?

No, but her husband loses character.

Can we expect patriotic sons and daughters from our film actresses?

There is a chance of getting some from those who playback for our stars those songs of patriotism we hear so often on the screen if some of those hot words light up a flame within the womb.

How long does a film star remain popular?

With the producer: as long as she draws the crowds; with the director: as long as she looks young and obliging; with the public: as long as she features in popular pictures.

Can you tell me the exact age at which actresses retire from the film line?

They begin at sweet 'seventeen', work for twenty years and retire at 'twenty-one'. During their stardom they refuse to grow but a year after their retirement they suddenly look 45.

Is there any film star who knows piloting?

Oh yes, almost every beautiful star pilots her producer, often to the rocks of failure.

Please let me know if the private lives of cinema actors and actresses are pious?

Absolutely! Pious to all the desires a human being is subject to.

Why don't our directors pay some attention towards sex-appeal?

They do and so much of it that the girls have no sex-appeal left on the screen. They have only sex left to show but no appeal

What is the secret of a well-dressed actress?

That the producer has a good bank balance.

What is an ideal husband for a film actress?

The man who doesn't mind salting his bread with the sweat of his wife's brow and doesn't feel lonely in a single bed.

What do the film stars want—fame or money?

They want fame because money pursues fame.

Why do most film stars remain unmarried?

Producers don't like to negotiate business with husbands. Married stars usually get fewer contracts.

What is the difference between an actress and a prostitute?

None, though you can't mix one with the other. Both follow absolutely honest professions—one earns on her talent, the other on her flesh. The actress is more fortunate in her work being called an artistic profession, while the other one is unfortunate in being looked down upon as following an immoral profession. In my opinion, both are respectable members of human society and both belong to the essential services of our modern times. But remember that a film actress is not a prostitute. Her profession is acting.

Do our film stars ever weep?

Tears are the lot of all human beings and stars have beautiful eyes to hold the tears.

Name a film actress who is worth her weight in gold?

Quite a few get gold for their weight but the weight is not worth the gold.

What is an actor without ego?

An egg without a shell!

When does an extra girl become a star?

When a small producer apes a big one and buys a four-seater for two persons.

Should the heroine be always an extra at the start?

Oh no! Those who jump into the eye at first sight jump to stardom straightway.

Why is it that when we see tragedy on the Indian screen, we are rather inclined to laugh than cry?

Because when you look behind, you see the dead hero sitting in the box receiving curious smiles.

SCREEN AND STAGE

Why are Indian pictures so long?

Because our producers require a long rope to hang themselves with.

Why have colour films failed in India?

Because in the colour films we had, eyes looked red, hair looked yellow and lips looked black. Like the producers, the colours loafed about and settled down at the wrong spots.

How are tears produced in the eyes of actors and actresses?

With glycerine in case of adults and by pinching the bottoms in case of little babies.

I have generally found heroines in pictures addressing their husbands as "swamy", "nath", which is not at all a common practice these days!

It is only in pictures that wives are so pedantically polite. I would divorce the woman who calls me "swamy".

Who popularizes vulgarity—our producers or prostitutes?

Prostitutes absorb vulgarity, producers promote it.

What do you think when you see a picture in which a pregnant actress plays the part of a heroine?

I expect the baby to be born any minute and get disappointed not to hear its cry at the end.

What is a perfect screen kiss?

One that is caught by the camera but not by the lips.

Has God given us eyes only to enjoy the beauty of nature?

No! Also to see Indian film monstrosities.

What do you dislike about Hollywood?

The "wood" part of it so often seen in its upper region.

Have you ever been haunted by ghosts or witches?

Oh, yes! In my world they are called producers and film stars.

Why our film hero when he goes to the village well for drinking water, forgets to drink water and begins to look like a fool at the face of the village girl who gives him water?

His throat is not parched but his eyes are thirsty. In this he emulates his producer.

At times I am so fed up with my life that I wish to put an end to it. But suicide is a crime—both moral and penal. What should I do?

See Indian pictures thrice every day and you will pass out of this world gradually.

Which is the most fascinating part of film production?

The heroine part of it, if she is a new comer.

How is it that while kisses and embraces in Indian films are censored by Congress governments, Congress leaders at Delhi publicly embrace foreigners of the opposite sex and their photographs are prominently seen in papers?

Film producers turn kisses into currency notes by flavouring the kisses with desire. Congress leaders use them as conventional courtesies

When does a picture make a silver jubilee?

When approximately half a million fools have seen it.

Why is it that the length of the films is measured only in feet and not in yards?

Producers give us the films in feet but we see them in miles

Is there any casting department in any of our film studios?

The two tired eyes of the producer do all the casting. They are cast about and in doing so lend caste to many a casteless.

How many producers in our country are art conscious?

All! They treat art like an ancient treasure and keep it safe from prying eyes. That is also one way of looking after it.

Please let me know whether you are afraid of the producers or the producers are afraid of you?

No one is afraid of any one in this world, each party playing the game to suit the circumstances. We are all time-servers.

What is the basis of the entire film industry?

Sex and money!

Indian producers are very fond of producing social pictures?

Actually, they are anti-social but keep that a secret.

Does the cinema encourage juvenile crime?

Even adults oblige to complete our crime record.

Have the present-day movies any educational value?

They have a therapeutic value. Even chronic sufferers from insomnia sleep well in the theatres.

When a film director is so much interested in emphasizing "sex appeal" in female artistes, why does he not labour equally in the case of male artistes?

Men have no 'sex appeal' to sell. They have 'bank appeal' which provides security to women. That is the only male quality that counts.

Who is the Indian actress famous for her legs?

Only in Hollywood they sell "legs" and sometimes more. Art is often sold there from a flesh-and-blood counter.

Is it possible to judge the pictures by their advertisements?

That is like judging a woman by her paint.

What is "film technique"?

It is a mysterious word that covers like a blanket all the funny experiments of film directors in India. In Hollywood, it means the scientific art of framing and presenting pictures.

Why is marriage the common conclusion of nearly all film themes?

How else can they end an affair between a man and a woman? Society has yet to accept an alternative arrangement

Heroes don't die in the romances written by film story writers. Why?

If they died theatres would be empty. People don't pay to see their heroes die.

What is the tempting bait to attract educated girls to films?

Money and glamour attract all girls—educated or not. Art is, of course, the subsequent apology.

Is it bad manners to sleep in the midst of a movie programme?

It is a blessing if you can do it

Generally politicians do not act in films. Why?

Films have a happy ending which politicians dread. They need chaos and tragedy to be natural. When politicians stage their acts, people pay with their lives

What are the qualifications of an average director?

Fooling with the heroine, making a fool of the producer and ultimately looking a fool himself.

Are there any raw film manufacturers in India?

No! But we have directors who expose the film and make it look more raw than ever before.

Is it lewd and licentious to act in films?

Heavens, no! It is good and gracious.

How often do you go to the pictures?

As often-as the producers commit the mistake of producing one.

What are your suggestions to improve the South Indian films?

Shoot some of the South Indian producers on a foggy morning so that you don't have to see their faces and spoil your day.

Don't you think that all our producers should adopt a common trade mark—a heap of notes and coins with an inscription below, "Art for Money's sake"?

That would be honest but honesty is not a popular virtue with our film producers.

If you had to describe the Indian film industry in one word, which one could you use?

Misadventure!

What is your honest opinion about the prices at which producers buy scripts and stories in our country?

There can't be an honest opinion about a dishonest practice. Our producers generally steal stories. If they don't, their writers do.

Why is not kissing permitted in Indian films when we see foreign pictures full of them?

The west is a materialistic world in which concrete exchanges have to be indulged even to establish emotional values. Western love has to be seen before it is believed. Kissing in the West is a noisy and visible gesture, fashioned in their usual materialistic strain, to prove even to the

blind that love has been delivered on both sides. In the East, love is an abstract spiritual emotion which is often difficult to discover even in the tearful eyes of the beloved. Women in our country consider it vulgar even to bring their heart into their eyes to prove that they love their man. Theirs is a silent, secretive and spiritual emotion. When Indian women love, they worship and don't toss up noisy kisses.

How long does a star remain popular?

As long as the fools stand in queues.

What is good poetry?

Certainly not the one film "poets" write.

Could you define the object of film production in India?

Lots of fun and pots of money!

Who selects the cast for our pictures. the director or the producer?

Circumstances and pet prejudices!

Do you ever suffer from headache?

Between the readers and the producers I have all the aches

What is your idea about grief? Do you think that a few tears and a song express genuine grief in a motion picture?

Overwhelming grief is dry and dumb. In motion pictures we glamourise grief with glycerine tears.

Why do our good artistes agree to act in rotten films?

If they wait for good ones they will have to go unemployed all their life as every picture begins as the world's greatest one and often ends as the world's rottenest.

Is the Indian film industry a democratic organization?

There is Communism in its artistic existence. Grocers, brokers, idiots—one and all—form a loving brotherhood to strip art of the least pretence of anything artistic.

Which is more important in a film: the star or the story?

The producer's greed for money.

Can you tell me who is the most fortunate person in the Indian film world?

One who hasn't the misfortune of being intelligent.

Do stars suffer from misfortune? If so when and why?

The misfortune of the stars begins with the story writer and ends with the director. In between there are lyric writers, music directors, cameramen, recordists and the stupid producers.

Is it necessary that our dancers should look effeminate—I mean the men dancers? Are there no masculine dances or do you think our ideas regarding masculinity and femininity are somewhat confused?

I have read of the 'Lasya' and 'Tandav' forms of Indian dancing but I always prefer a woman dancing to a man. I am told that some of our male dancers do the 'Tandav' as well as Lord Shiva used

to do it. And yet give me always a beautiful woman with a beautiful figure and I am prepared to accept every movement of hers as the most divine gesture

Do you think that in a film realism is more impressive than idealism?

Realism often become crude and morbid because it reflects life. Idealism presents hope without the agony of realism and as such becomes more suitable for screen entertainment.

How do they define love in India's film-land?

As a flame that attracts the moth—the producer.

Which affords greater scope for entertainment: crime or comedy?

Crime is education, comedy is entertainment.

Why don't some of our film stars attempt autobiographies?

Why do you want volumes of lies?

What is cinema: art or business?

Art for the critics, entertainment for the film-goers and business for the producers.

What is the difference between a film fan and a film critic?

A film fan is usually the sucker who builds up the producer's bank balance. Critic is the one who tries to save both and gets a bad name in doing so.

What makes a picture a success?

A complete break-down of the thinking machine of the masses.

What are the requisites of a film company?

Wealth, women, wine and wasters.

Which is the most important thing in a film?

The producer's luck.

Whom do you call a blind gambler?

A film producer! He caters for the blind who flock to see our rotten pictures. .

Orators are made, poets are born. What about producers and directors?

Born, born, heaven born! Making them would need some training.

Don't you think it a good idea that producers should adopt their own faces as their trade marks?

If they did people will leave the theatres without seeing the rest of the picture. Some of them drove even their own mothers to suicide.

What would you think of a person of 65 seeing pictures every day?

On way to rejuvenation!

What would be the thoughts of our ancestors on seeing some of our films?

They would repent for their impulsiveness in getting married.

How is it our forefathers managed without cinemas?

Our forefathers were not such simpletons as we are inclined to believe. They had their own shadow plays and our old literature is full of obscene stage plays which entertained kings and

subjects alike. They had chariot races and they gambled till they staked their wives and lost. They waged fratricidal wars which wiped off whole dynasties and they employed poets to turn sinners into gods for posterity to worship. From all evidence our forefathers were greater sinners.

How is it that honest and cultured persons do not shine well in the film trade?

The film trade primarily caters for the crude masses whose needs can be understood by equally crude producers

What is the occupational disease peculiar to film production?

Lack of brains and imagination!

Where is poverty in a film studio?

In the art and cash departments.

When is India going to get up-to-date cameras for making good pictures?

Our cameras are up-to-date. Only our cameramen are out of date.

Which do you prefer: the reality of the stage or the illusion of the screen?

The stage gets its realism from the living presence of the player but as far as expression of art is concerned there is little to choose between the two. The screen has an added advantage which the stage hasn't. In a close-up, the screen reveals the innermost emotions of a player which the stage cannot because of the distance between the players and the spectators.

Why do our college youths like Hollywood pictures?

There is more to see in them—often a symphony of love and legs. Indian legs are wrapped in traditional bandages.

Do Indian actresses carry their babies with them when they go to the studios for work?

They leave them behind in charge of their husbands who make good baby-sitters.

Why aren't our film producers producing Pandit Nehru's life for the screen?

They are waiting for him to die because dead men can't protest. Besides a great death is always good business for film producers.

A Hollywood picture is disliked by our women. Why?

It reflects their private deeds of dark hours.

CRITICISM

Does criticism help a person?

At least it gives relief to the impatient critic. Criticism is the mirror a neighbour carries in his pocket for you to see yourself.

Do you get complimentary passes from the producers?

I get complimentary abuse for criticising their pictures

You seem to take pleasure in exposing the defects and weaknesses of others. Tell me frankly, have you none of your own?

I have them in tons and that is one reason why I can spot them in others.

How does a film critic play the traitor to his pen?

By becoming the producer's salesman.

What is the difference between a critic and a cynic?

A critic helps the ailing while the cynic holds an inquest over the dead.

Would you criticise even gods if they came down to act in our film industry?

Gods are poor meat seeing that I criticise devils.

Have you ever suffered from insomnia?

Honest criticism is a marvellous hypnotic

Where does a bad picture hit you?

On my stomach. After my bad review of it, its producer stops advertising in "filmindia". So for my own sake, I always pray that our producers produce good pictures.

You always criticized Ganāhiji. Why not Jinnah?

Criticism is a frown of expectations.

Don't some of the film producers try to bribe you to get favourable criticism about their pictures?

They don't bribe, they blackmail. Bribing needs money—blackmailing needs only a dirty tongue

What is your worst fault as a film critic?

When a picture is tolerably good I call it pretty good out of sheer patriotism.

I have heard my friends calling you a diplomat. Are you one?

A critic has a dry tongue, a diplomat has an oily one.

How do you silence your critics?

By letting them talk.

Do you worry about what people think of you?

I worry when they start giving me a good name. When they do so they jeopardize my bread. A popular critic is a hungry man.

If a medical practitioner of country-wide repute can become the governor of a province, is it not possible for a famous critic to become one?

The plums of life never go to critics. They are reserved for clappers

Do not directors and producers weep before you when you criticise their pictures?

They do but I weep back for getting bad pictures.

What is the secret of good journalism?

Honest reaction to the events of the day, honestly interpreted.

What qualities are required to become a beauty critic?

To be a critic of beauty the primary need is a parched eye that aches for a soothe.

Do you follow what you preach?

I don't preach, I criticise. The critic is not obliged to live up to his criticisms like the preacher.

Have you any friends among the producers?

All the producers are my personal friends with the slight difference that we sit on either side of the fence for our meals.

In spite of being known as an impartial critic, why do you still retain peculiar likes and dislikes?

"Impartial criticism" is merely a metaphor. All criticism is more or less subjective. The least subjective is accepted as impartial. It is only a tame way of getting out of a bad situation.

Do you like to have a change in your profession?

It is too late to change now. I have already got a bad name

When you know about the scarcity of talent in the film industry, why do you criticise the majority of screen artistes?

Criticism is an argument for art and not an excuse for commerce. If there is a scarcity, it is the funeral of the producers and not of the critic.

"Barking dog seldom bites". How is it that you manage to do both?

My bite is in the bark.

Name a producer who corrects himself from your criticisms?

Himansu Rai. He died years ago.

Why is it that you are always misunderstood by others?

The trouble is that I am dreadfully right in certain things and people don't want me to be so damned accurate

Do you believe in worshipping?

If criticism is worship, I deify people.

Do you fear death? _

If I had I would have become a clapper and not a critic.

What do you prefer: politics, social work, religious life or hypocrisy?

Politics, social work and religious life are all shades of hypocrisy in the present times. I prefer film criticism. One can at least be honest in it.

What is the function of criticism?

To destroy self-complacency and provoke new thought.

"Criticism is the art of the devil". Do you accept it?

No! The executioner in jail who hangs criminals is not called a murderer. Then why should a critic who does his duty conscientiously be called a devil?

FRIVOLITY

I am now in the fighting forces and battling for freedom. I want to marry a film actress. Can I?

Your hands are full and I don't advise your opening a second front.

Whenever I see a tragic picture, a permanent stain of sadness appears on my heart?

Alcohol is a good stain remover.

What is the difference between 'gal' and 'gall'?

'Gal' in your arms—'gall' in your neighbour's.

When, why, how and whom to marry?

If I tell you all that, you will need me again after the marriage.

What is a 'pin-up' girl?

The girl who has regard only for the fig-leaf.

Birth control—is it a sin or a virtue?

That depends on the pulse-control.

Which Atom Bomb is more harmful to mankind: one dropped from an aeroplane or the one thrown from a girl's eyes?

The first destroys a home, the second builds one.

If 32 degrees is a freezing point, what is the squeezing point?

212 degrees Fahrenheit.

It is said that you receive perfumed letters from your female fans?

Yes, they smell of spices.

How does a bride feel on the first night of her marriage?

How the hell do I know? I have been a groom always.

How do you celebrate your birthday?

I pray to God to forgive my parents.

What is a dream?

An evidence in the head of water in the bladder.

Don't you favour nudism?

I do—in a bath-tub.

Why does a man feel an urge to embrace the girl for whom he has a fancy?

It is a chilly weather manoeuvre. In the tropics they put distance between love and desire.

What is telepathy?

Imagination by the male that the female has switched on.

Has any young woman ever pulled your leg?

Those who tried lost theirs.

Two of the most comfortable things in the world are old shoes and old friends. What is your experience?

I am a progressive man I seek comfort in new ones.

What is a kiss without heavenly bliss?

Without heaven in it, it may prove an introduction to pyorrhoea.

What would you do if you were left alone on an island with a bewitching girl?

I would not improve on Adam.

I have heard that you are a lady-killer. Is it true?

Come and count the corpses in the streets of Bombay.

Why do people build castles in the air?

Owing to the shortage of building materials.

A man though married to a beautiful lady is still seen running after nice ladies Why?

A razor often needs a strop to secure a smooth shave.

If you are caught between two girls in a theatre, what is the best way to get rid of your nervousness?

I don't feel nervous in such homely surroundings I am built differently.

Do you know the effect of eating raw onions?

It keeps romance at arm's length and gives your best friend a chance.

Can you cook?

I can do the next best thing—eat and appreciate a well-cooked meal.

What does a lady's hand bag contain?

That depends on the day's activities. I knew one who carried a knife.

What should be done when many boys are fighting with one another for the sake of a beautiful girl?

If it is a problem of many they should refer the matter to the U.N.O. and ask for a Commission to be appointed.

A girl friend advises me "When you are married, and your husband is cross, take up a broomstick in hand, And say 'I am boss'!" Do you agree?

I do if the woman is dumb.

Have you ever been with a lady to kiss her under the mistletoe?

I wouldn't like to blame the mistletoe for my mistakes.

If I invite you to a fancy dress party and request you to come in a child's attire so as to look not more than twelve in age, how would you do it?

I would have to wrap myself in your imagination, which may, if necessary, be pitched even lower than twelve.

What is meant by a "tom boy" and a "he-man"?

Tom boy is the girl with the itch of youth in constant search for a scratch. He-man is the boy with enlarged monkey-glands.

Which is better: a kiss which fools you or a fool who kisses you?

There is not much to choose between the two as in either case you remain a fool.

Buds and blossoms are known to give solace but in my pursuit of them I have had thorns and thorns all the way and the effort of these weary years has been futile. Why so?

So far you have rushed only to smell and run away. Next time pick a blossom and take it to your nursery for keeps. There'll be no thorns then—only babies

You have got a gigantic personality Why don't you work on the screen?

They don't want giants on the screen They want human beings

Will you ever renounce girls in your life?

No! Not till I start drinking goat's milk And why should I reject the solitary companion which God has given to man?

Can a widow be called a 'Miss'?

Why not, seeing that she misses something and is still young enough to become a 'missus' once again?

Who is your beloved actor?

In this world of cradles why love an actor?

If love is 'fire', marriage an 'inferno', divorce 'salvation' and second marriage 'purgatorial expiation', what is polygamy?

Escapism.

If a beautiful couple goes for a stroll and Cupid discovers that there is no arrow left in his quiver, what will he do?

Modern lovers don't wait for Cupid. They need only a cinema theatre. They have all the arrows in their quiver.

What are your politics?

Bread, butter and bean for me and my Jean.

Are husbands necessary?

Not if wives are superfluous.

Why is a woman preferred to a man as a private secretary?

The word 'private' has a feminine gender.

How many flowers have you crushed till now?

I am not a perfume manufacturer. Besides a crushed flower brings the perfume home. Do you think I am running an orphanage?

An astrologer told me that the editors of film magazines accompany the actors and actresses into hell after their death. If it is a fact, may I feel sorry for your fate?

You should be happy. That means continued business over there. If I go with them I shall have something to write

When does a boy become a man?

When he buys a safety razor

How can a kiss be valued?

By its sequel.

If "‘virgin’ is the goods and ‘miss’ is the label”, what is a spinster?

Unclaimed goods in the lost property office.

Can a woman love another woman instead of a man?

Not instead but in addition.

What is the difference between a butterfly and a belle?

A butterfly has no honey.

How did the Anglo-Indian community come into existence?

The same way like the rest of the Indians. They haven't a special process.

What is your definition of 'lip sympathy'?

A noisy kiss between clumsy lovers is so much lip sympathy.

How do you feel when you see on the screen an Indian film actress smoking?

Feel like calling for the Fire Brigade.

How many hours' sleep does a man require? Napoleon slept only two hours and yet possessed tremendous energy and vigour. Why?

That's why he ended at St Helena. You stick to seven hours in bed.

Why are the European ladies fond of carrying puppies close to the neck?

To give the pups some cushion comforts.

Why do young ladies show dislike for moustaches?

If they had, Sikhs would have become solitary Crusoes.

Are you in favour of re-marrying widows?

At what age?

What is the best way to teach a girl to swim?

It all depends on what the girl wants to become after the swim.

Which place in India in your opinion is the best for celebrating honeymoon?

A bedroom is about the safest place. The rest of India is too crowded with 400 millions sprinkled all over.

My idea of a good time is to go to bed with a good book. What is yours?

I would read the book. Merely going to bed with one wouldn't help.

I want 'light', Mr. Patel?

Buy a match box.

Whenever I have a tete-a-tete with a girl, I get a thrilling sensation but unfortunately it is only a momentary one. What may be the reason?

Defective conduction.

Are you looking forward to enjoying an everlasting bliss in heaven?

I need a modern streamlined show. The old fashioned one needs too much virtue for admission.

A friend of mine is suffering from expansion and dislocation of the heart. What is your advice to her?

Ask her to buy a double bed.

Have you ever closed your eyes on a good-looking girl?

Perish the thought! How could you think of such blasphemy?

Which is the face that you can never forget?

My own. The mirror has reflected it so many times that it almost haunts me

Which of these do you like: a sweet dream that you are sleeping on the lap of your beloved or actually a deep slumber on the lap of the beloved?

I like the dream in case I find the lap cold

Have you ever been impertinent?

I have never been polite unnecessarily.

I came to know that planting of new trees was the chief event on the first anniversary of our independence May I know why?

To provide shade for the future sit-down strikers and to accommodate street dogs

Why are you so fond of your wife?

Then should I be fond of someone else's wife?

How will you feel if some gentleman sitting behind you in a picture-house happens to rest his legs on the back of your chair just above your shoulders?

If some one does that to me there won't be a gentleman left in the chair behind me.

What will happen if men retired and handed over the government to ladies?

The secretariat would have to be built round the ashrams of the men to save time for the ladies in rushing every time for approval.

If you have friendship with a Governor's son, what will you do?

I shall avoid him to save a free copy of "filmindia".

Do you believe in life after death?

I do. That is why I am anxious to improve the producers before we meet again under different auspices.

My lucky metal is gold. What is yours?

Gold is all the luck the world wants and I am one of the world.

What do you think of the person who stole the shoes of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at a recent public meeting in New Delhi?

A practical man! He got something at least out of our Prime Minister. We get only high-flown lectures.

What is the best way of getting rid of a car which gives frequent trouble?

Sell it to your neighbour at his price and watch him struggling with it. You will soon get your price that way.

What is the normal time when a woman should dress?

Before getting out of her bed.

Is heaven full of angels?

Must be seeing that it is so difficult to get in there.

Is there an honest film critic anywhere?

What's wrong with me?

Madras buses have women conductors. What next?

The ministers' cars will have women chauffeurs.

Do you approve of modern cholis?

So long as they cover the good old things I have no objection.

If you are sent to hell and your wife, Sushila Rani, to heaven will you envy her?

Oh no! It will be a change we shall both need after a life-time together.

What is the physiology of modern boys and girls?

Have you noticed any change recently? I think that is the one thing that has not changed since Adam and Eve launched their joint venture.

What are the ethics of film criticism?

The future journalists will formulate the ethics after I am dead. Till then, follow my precarious career.

Do good people go to heaven?

I am afraid so! That makes heaven an undemocratic place.

What is your opinion about those college girls who tell their parents that they are attending college while you find them in picture houses with their boy friends?

I sympathize with the parents for not having had cinema theatres in their days.

What is the easiest method of learning a language?

Take a sleeping dictionary

In most of the Indian pictures the heroine gets married to the hero. Why?

Then should she marry some one from the audience?

What would you choose on a summer afternoon: lovely lips or a refrigerated mango?

A mango every time if it is afternoon—summer or not. Lips are after-supper appetizers.

If a girl smiles at you and you frown at her, what will be the result?

I have not yet done such a stupid thing. Very often I have earned the frown because I didn't smile correctly.

Which of the two would you prefer: a dark night or a moonlit night?

Give me the moon every time. A dark night requires too much groping.

Please tell me what is the difference between the kiss of a village girl and that of a college girl?

A kiss is honeydew in the village but a postal stamp in the college.

What should a young man do when he is overpowered by the beauty of a charming damsel?

Lay down his life non-violently.

What is a 'sleeping beauty'?

The snow-white who keeps one awake.

What is your opinion about widow marriage?

I think the widow's opinion is more important.

How far is it good to practise that Christian precept, "Love thy neighbour as thyself"?

But the neighbour often has a husband and that is sometimes a six foot risk which calls for the exercise of the other Christian precept about offering the other cheek. These Christian virtues have always been too puzzling.

Why does a man commit suicide?

To prove his anxious hurry to reach heaven.

Is night only meant for sleeping?

Oh no! It is also used for house-breaking and thieving and of course film-shooting.

I am afraid of death. What am I to do?

Die once and you won't have to be afraid any more.

Why is a man with a beautiful girl by his side welcomed everywhere?

I am not, though I have a beautiful wife. On the other hand they sigh over my wife's misfortune.

What are pen friends?

Friends whose pens vomit emotions.

What is celibacy?

Realizing old mistakes and stopping new ones.

My husband eats rose petals. What is the matter with him?

Must be a 12-spotted beetle. Use an insecticide.

If heroes are allowed to select heroines, what will happen?

We might have three heroines in one picture.

Whenever I play film records my dog starts howling. Why is this Mr. Patel?

Stop the records and save the dog. You can't kill two things at once: music and loyalty.

What would happen if animals became as intelligent as human beings?

They would ask for a U.N.O. of their own.

What foot do you put first on the floor when you wake up in the morning?

The right one and then proceed to do the wrong things whole day.

If I say something absurd to my wife she begins to cry Why?

For marrying in haste.

A R T

Can love and art go together?

Art needs love to blossom and love needs art to succeed.

What is the relation between nature and art?

Art is often the imitation of nature. Nature is God's art while art is man's rivalry with God.

Why is it that artists have been painting female nudes through ages?

Men are the buyers and artists paint what sells.

What happens when art is murdered?

The murderer escapes with criticism only.

Are there any sadists among our film artistes?

The way they torture art, it will be difficult not to find one.

What is art?

Making the artificial seem natural.

Must artistic films be gloomy?

Not necessarily! It has become a fashion to call the morbid as artistic. The little flower smiling in the sun is also a piece of great art. Art takes its hues from the mind of the artist.

Is popularity the criterion of merit?

It is of popular merit but not necessarily of artistic merit.

Is music an art or a science?

It is neither. It is just an emotion in harmony with the soul.

Does extreme sensitiveness indicate a highly artistic nature?

The human mind is like a razor blade. The more you sharpen it, the more sensitive you make it and the quicker it acquires the dents of life. But sensitiveness does not mean being artistic, though to be artistic one must be sensitive.

Do you like music or dancing?

Music every time, because it has a melody of emotion which vibrates the heart.

Is there any necessity of romance in the life of an artist?

It lends a rainbow of ever-changing hues to his art

GENERAL

What is winking a bad act or a bad art?

It is a sly art for a bold act.

When is a dandy in distress?

When a damsel turns round and spits

What is yellow journalism?

Journalism with the yellow metal clasp.

Is kissing the only function of lips?

You can also suck the poison from a snake-bite and save human life.

✓ *What do you think of flatterers?*

Vultures eat a dead body—flatterers carve a living one.

What do you think of swearing?

Swearing is often good as a catharsis for emotional constipation.

How does etiquette differ from culture?

Etiquette is the mask, culture is the face behind.

What is the difference between character and conduct?

Character is something we expect from others; conduct is the way we fulfil our expectations.

Who is the greater pest to society between an astrologer and an insurance agent?

An astrologer sells you a rosy picture of the future, an insurance agent buys you one.

What is the difference between 'nude' and 'naked'?

'Nude' is the polite term for 'naked'.

What is the true test of civilization?

Man's behaviour towards man.

What do you think of a sleeveless blouse?

Woeful cloth shortage which exposes ugly arms.

Will you please define 'wrinkle'?

An evidence of experience.

Whenever I see a girl bubbling with youth, a current passes through my whole body. What remedy do you suggest?

Don't waste the current. Light up a home with it.

What is the difference between the blush of a married girl and an unmarried one?

In the married girl, a blush is the reflex of a previous experience. In the unmarried, it is only a coy speculation, of the future.

Is there a connection between diet and intelligence?

In the profit-making industries the more they eat the less intelligent they become.

✓ *What is flattery?*

Butter one spreads on life's hard toast.

When is a damsel in distress?

When the devil is in a hurry.

Define a 'gentleman':

A unit of the smallest minority in the present world.

What are little girls and maidens made of?

Bits of our sisters and mothers.

What is your definition of morality?

A strictly personal virtue with which the state has nothing to do.

Which is more humiliating to our society: prostitution or destitution?

Destitution is the parent of prostitution.

Are nights necessary?

Yes, to pile up sin for the sun to clean.

What is fame?

A silent censure of others less fortunate.

Why is it that dogs wail mostly during nights?

They probably bewail the ability of human beings to sleep over their sins.

Can cocoanut oil influence the culture and mental make-up of men?

Oil has given the Americans the leadership of the world—but that is not cocoanut oil with which our leaders massage their legs.

Is it necessary to be sophisticated to be called intelligent?

No amount of sophistication can dress a fool for an intellectual occasion

What is the difference between the roar of a lion and the bark of a dog?

There is only a small bite behind the bark but a full meal behind the roar.

Ta—ta, what does it mean?

End of boredom.

If some one threatens you over the phone that you will be murdered within a fortnight, what will you do?

Put the receiver down Murderers don't use telephones.

How long would you recommend mother's milk for children?

As long as it smells of character.

Are you certain that delicate hands indicate artistic ability?

I am not, because people who operate on safes also need delicate hands.

Do you like fanaticism?

It is a virtue in self-defence.

✓ *How is the sound of a kiss spelt?*

✓ *Pa! If you do it often you end by being "papa".*

What is the best part of a kiss?

The intention behind it.

✓ *Please define a 'sigh'?*

It is the smoke of emotion.

Do you approve of co-education?

Oh yes, if together they can scrape some education.

If you slap me on one side and I offer you the other side also, what will you do?

I shall consider it a waste of a good slap and avoid meeting another idiot like you in future.

Why do most of the European ladies always go out with a dog?

They probably train the dog as a pattern for their husbands to follow.

Among college students the word 'cousin' is very popular. Do you know why?

It smells of stolen romance under a social license.

Which do you prefer: naked and blunt truth or polished and civilized truth?

Truth can't be draped and therefore cannot be made naked. You have either some of it or all of it.

Why have you an exaggerated weakness for the fair sex?

If respect is weakness, I plead guilty.

What is in your opinion the best method of removing untouchability?

By practising touchability.

What is truth?

An exposed lie.

Which lips are sweeter to kiss: thick ones or thin ones?

Thick or thin, lips take their hue from the heart.

✓ *Are women responsible for India's freedom?*

Yes, they made the problem very urgent by giving us a crowd of 400 millions.

Do you know the place where happiness is always found?

Yes, you carry it on your shoulders.

What is your opinion about chaste women ending their lives by becoming 'sati'?

It is burning good living flesh over dead and putrid one.

For what purpose did God create the eunuch?

As a living warning to the fast ones.

What is the difference between a 'miss' and a 'virgin'?

'Miss' is the label, 'virgin' is the goods.

Which is better: an ugly flower with good perfume or a beautiful flower without any perfume?

Fragrance is the flower. A flower without fragrance is like a woman without charm.

What is your reaction when you are flattered?

A man with some intelligence can't stand an insult twice.

Can you differentiate between Indian etiquette and European etiquette?

You can see European etiquette but you must feel the Indian one.

Do you believe in polygamy?

Is belief absolutely necessary?

Is it bad to look at girls?

Yes, at bad girls.

If one of the pre-historic monsters were to come to life in this modern world, what would happen to it?

It would steal the publicity from our politicians and thus be a victim of our penal laws.

What do you think of a millionaire wearing the Gandhi cap and khadi clothes?

A salesman.

You make sense out of nonsense. What is the secret of your art?

Commonsense.

How many kinds of lies have you experienced in your life?

Habitual lies, diplomatic lies and criminal lies.

What is the difference between a bribe and a commission?

A commission is often a legitimate profit after a deal. A bribe is a temptation in advance.

How should a bluffer be treated?

Encourage him to talk and admire his imagination.

What is humour and what is fun?

Humour is pregnant with meaning while fun is a mere bubble.

Is it personality or principles that move the age?

Principles determine a personality and people, however bad themselves, always admire principles.

You say that a critic has a dry tongue while a diplomat has an oily one. What type of tongue does a hypocrite have?

A double-edged one.

Why do people drink?

When they begin they punctuate leisure, half-way through they punctuate pleasure and in the last stages they punctuate misery.

They say luck favours the fool. Do you agree?

A lucky man never looks a fool because intelligence is a part of the luck.

What do you think about Indian women's right to divorce?

It is a statutory cockroach which will rarely encroach on Hindu home life.

Is smelling a willing 'flower' a crime?

Not if it is in your own garden.

Which do you like: Western civilization or Eastern civilization?

The East has culture while the West has civilization. The former is an ancient heritage; the latter is a recent product.

Can a white man prove to be a worthy friend?

What has colour to do with the fibre?

Have you any faith in anybody in this world?

Some in myself and the rest in God.

What is the significance of a Gandhi cap?

A featherweight cap which puts no weight or responsibility on the head wearing it.

What is the difference between nature and habit?

Nature is the habit one inherits, habit is the nature one acquires

Why is India music mad?

With too many crying cradles in the country, India has become a nation of lullaby singers.

Do you accept Thomas Hardy's "Tess" as a pure woman?

As a hardy woman, of course.

Which friendship is everlasting: between two persons of the same sex or of opposite sex?

If multiplication is the evidence of long existence, then you know which is everlasting.

Why Adam and Eve had a fall from Heaven?

Nonsense! They fell from space into the heaven of each other's arms

Do you believe in re-birth?

Had I, I would have been more polite to the world

What is the difference between the tears of a man and a woman?

Tears emphasize the sex in woman while they reveal weakness in man.

What would you call a lady who has given birth to twins?

A Jewess who believes in saving time and energy.

Do you like the divorce system being introduced in India?

I like all freedoms. Divorce is another vogue of freedom.

Why is black colour singled out for everything that is ugly or evil on this earth?

It is a colour without shades, consistent in its appearance and honest in its purpose.

If I want to become a Gandhiji, what should I have to do?

Begin from Africa, the dark continent. That land will always need another Gandhiji.

Which is the noblest profession of the world in your opinion?

That of being a saint, as it is harmless to the one who practises it and to all around. Even pretending at this game, one cannot do harm to another.

What is "personality"?

Often an ugliness that reflects worldly success.

✓ *If a popular film actress offers a kiss to the highest contributor to a national fund, will there be a very keen competition for that kiss?*

We don't believe in building a nation on kisses. Like Americans, Indian women don't sell their kisses even for their country. One of our patriotic ideals is to guard and protect the lips of our women. A kiss is not a negotiable instrument in India.

What do you call a man who has no instinct for music?

Still born.

What is the difference between a journalist and a knave?

A journalist is an altruistic knave.

How should an enemy be treated?

With respect and consideration. He is the best critic a wise man can have.

From yesterday I am the father of my son. I want to name him after Mahatma Gandhi.

The name of a saint is the heritage of a nation. Echoing it is a virtue in itself.

When does virtue become a vice?

When it is overdone.

"Do or Die", do you believe in this?

I am doing. Dying will look after itself. It does not need my consent or co-operation.

What is your opinion about a hunger strike?

Primarily it does good to the person who undertakes it. Hunger strike cures chronic dyspepsia. It has a secondary use in improving personal and political careers. I doubt whether it removes the original grievance for which the fast is undertaken.

How would you distinguish a person of noble birth?

"Blue Blood", "Noble Birth", Aristocratic Descent"—these imposing blood clots are beyond my understanding. Every birth needs primarily a man and a woman and is therefore essentially a biological event. How does nobility or bluishness of blood come in physical mating? I have seen many bastards disgracing a so-called noble family. On the other hand, half of the prophets of the world had no blue blood in them

If one group of people mercilessly butchers a weaker group, is it possible to forget and forgive the murderers without retaliation?

Delayed retaliation smells of vindictiveness and is an equally heinous crime. Retaliation on the spot has the flavour of self-defence.

Is it morally right to accept a girl in marriage who has been raped during communal riots?

If a crow spoils your new dress while standing under a tree, do you throw it away? No moral values are involved in an act in which a person is an unwilling victim.

Do you believe in astrology?

Yes, in its predictions being completely wrong.

Who is the originator of the art of kissing?

Adam must have started the first lip service because language was unknown then.

What would you prefer: peace in bondage or chaos in freedom?

What is peace under the boot of another—a worm's existence! Let us be roasted in fire to get even a moment's flush of freedom.

Why are capitalists fat?

Because they employ others to sweat for them.

✓ *Are lawyers necessary?*

Yes, to glorify crime and perpetuate it.

What is the earthly use of these present-day university degrees?

University degrees are very useful if you know how to cash them. That is one secret the colleges don't teach—cashing them.

Why do people prefer to see the Taj in moonlight?

Because it is a creation of a moonstruck lover who wasted millions, made thousands slave and killed hundreds to perpetuate the memory of a woman.

If we ask no questions, we will be told no lies?

But I don't lie, though I bluff sometimes. A bluff is a provocation to find out the truth while a lie needs no further research

What pleasure do people get from smoking?

At times a smoker finds more in a cigarette than in a woman.

Is it pride or foolishness on one's part not to have children?

It is wisdom that saves a heart-burn

Does a doctor's profession know any politics?

The politics of free service to political leaders resulting in more prestige and larger practice.

For what is Hollywood unpopular?

For misrepresenting the whole world including their own little town.

Do you like the smoke in somebody else's pipe?

I don't mind a chimney smoking so long as something is being cooked below it.

Is it sinful to love money?

Not at all! Wrongful acquisition or its misuse is a crime.

The Yankees say they will one day go to the moon. Why?

To find out what moonstruck Indians have been doing there for 10000 years.

How to trick people into lending you money?

Friends are robbed through sentiment, lies and crocodile tears. The professional moneylenders lose through their own greed.

Who should be called the father of journalism in India?

In India journalism is an orphan profession. Those who grow old become merely old orphans but never fathers.

What is the yardstick of a person's intelligence?

His conversation which is often silence in the face of provocation.

How many years will it take for an Indian clerk to possess his own car like his brother in America?

Our enterprise as a free nation has begun with a liability of feeding 350 million starving people. Let us feed them first before we send them rushing about in cars. In America they burn food to keep prices up.

What will happen if everyone thinks of himself and his family?

Everyone will have to work hard and earn and we shall have an ideal state.

Virtue is not always rewarded. Why?

Virtue is modest and doesn't intrude asking for recognition.

Which in your opinion is more meritorious in the eyes of God: to die for one's country or to die for one's faith?

To live and work for both. In this country too many people die regularly for one thing or other.

Which plays a greater part in an individual's life: heredity or temporary environment?

In matters of deeper emotions which concern the mental and spiritual life of a person, heredity has almost an inflexible grip on the human mind. Temporary environment greatly influences little acts of day-to-day life which sometimes pile up dangerously and overwhelm hereditary impulses. In the present progressive times, every human being must struggle out of hereditary influences, good or bad, and form his own ideologies to suit the times.

Give the life-sketch of Judas?

He made Jesus the greatest martyr of history and on the memory of that martyr a great religion was founded. Judas was a great man.

Who takes your sympathy: a divorced husband or a divorced wife?

Sympathy for what, seeing that they get another chance not to commit the same mistake again.

Why are most of the songs in the Indian pictures sung by females?

Music has the sex of the nightingale.

Have you ever seen the Taj Mahal? What do you think about its beauty?

That beauty needs life to be beautiful. The Taj is a tomb of the dead and memories make it a sad architecture.

✓ *Why does a child cry at the time of its birth?*

It is a protest of innocence at being ushered into a world of sinners.

How does the idealist feel when he finds the people deaf?

The idealist doesn't shout to the people but whispers to his own soul.

Will you please let me know the remedy for the beggar problem in India?

Begging is one of the major industries in India. It is too well organized to be merely a social problem. A beggar is the least helpless person in our present society. He has his bread buttered on the roads by the criminal generosity of the idiotic well-to-do who can't see beyond the tips of their noses. The begging industry must be tackled by the State and made a dangerous pursuit. If they whip a few beggars every day in every town, India won't be such a big land of beggars as it is today.

· *Whom would you prefer: an arrogant doctor with foreign degrees or a sympathetic one with Indian qualifications?*

The medical profession has become a commercial racket these days. Doctors do more killing than curing. They act as salesmen of patent-medicines and seem to have forgotten the art and mission of healing. To them, human suffering provides merely

an opportunity for money-making. Medical practice is fast becoming a human scourge. Physicians share the spoils with surgeons while patients lie prostrate with pain. Physicians, surgeons, pathologists, radiologists, massagists, psychiatrists, orthopedists and many other quacks—all combine in an unholy conspiracy to make human pain yield a rich dividend.

There are a few exceptions but they only help to prove the rule. I like a doctor who takes my pain to his friendly heart and treats it more with sentiment than with drugs.

If you are offered a bottle of whisky and a bottle of poison at the same time, how will you distinguish the one from the other?

To me both are poison. The need of distinguishing therefore does not arise.

Pornography as such is censured by society; but when incorporated in poetry it is not only permitted but positively applauded—even the moralists join in the applause! Why is it so?

The human eye is less tolerant than the ear. The story of the ear is often turned into a tragedy of the eye. That's why people like to hear things but not see them.

Do the Americans spit on the roads as we do here in India?

No. They put some chewing gum into the mouth and with its help swallow the spittle.

Are Indians fit for independence?

People must get freedom not because they deserve it but because no foreigner has a right to rule over others.

Is it safe for a young and beautiful girl to become the secretary to a film journalist?

It is not safe for the journalist if the girl is a marrying type.

Are examinations the real test of merit?

They are often milestones where fools stop learning.

What particular national dress do you suggest for India?

It is no use suggesting a dress when there isn't enough cloth to go round. A dress becomes national only when 350 millions wear it. We have millions with only their original hide well pressed to the bone for all social occasions.

Will Gandhism survive after Mahatma Gandhi?

Only on his anniversary days, we shall hear of the Prophet of Peace and of his sermons in Bhangi colonies.

Whom do you welcome: a man of society, a man of books or a man of humour?

In a man of books, there is both humour and society.

When does darkness appeal?

When you wish to cover conscience with nature's blanket and lull it to sleep.

Why does an ideal always remain away from man?

An ideal is like the rabbit that always runs ahead of the hound.

What is wealth without health?

Prosperity for the doctor.

In a Negro nation how is beauty measured?

Probably by the shine and shape just as you do in the case of a black shoe.

What is the virtue of the rich?

Loyalty to their creed of capitalism.

Can one repeat an emotion?

Emotion is a constant flame of the heart and not a spark of the brain to repeat at intervals.

Is there any charm in a premature surrender?

It doesn't give victory its glow of vindictive satisfaction.

What are races?

Horses running with shoes of silver to feed the jockeys and the trainers.

What's your idea about the insurance agents?

Social workers with thick skins!

Can you say something about astrology?

The art of looking at the stars in heaven and digging some gold from the earth.

What is the relationship between the policeman and the thief?

A comradeship of hostile interests!

As a medical student may I ask you as to what should be the chief aim of a medical man?

Pain is a prayer to God and a doctor must answer it if the divine purpose of his profession is to be fulfilled.

What do you think of sweet air hostesses?

Air hostesses are saccharine sweeties good only for the diabetics.

Are all people moving in motor cars rich?

Except the chauffeurs!

What would you have done if you had been in place of Adam when God created the world?

I would have killed the serpent, preserved the apple as a pickle for posterity and for the rest followed Adam. That would have solved the clothing problem of today.

What is the advantage of taking loans from Pathan money-lenders?

You can smell them from a distance and dodge in time.

Which leaves a greater effect on the mind—the spoken word or the written?

Words are atom bombs and the written ones travel far and wide and make or break many an unseen heart.

What should a wealthy miser do if he loves an actress?

Misers love money and not honey.

What is the difference between the laughs of an old man and that of a child?

Both the laughs have no teeth but the little one's has a fragrance of the future in it while the old one's has only a smell of the past.

✓ Please define dream and drama?

A dream is the drama of sleeping hours while a drama is the dream of waking hours.

What purpose does lipstick serve?

It holds the kiss together.

What are flowers for?

To decorate gods, gardens and guardian politicians.

Is the Atom Bomb a dangerous thing?

The hands that drop it are dangerous. The Atom Bomb is a harmless thing in the hands of good men.

What is a flower without fragrance?

An evidence of nature's meanness

What is this place called heaven?

To the Muslims it is a "mehfil" of "hoors" and "sherbet"; to the Hindus it is a "Kumbhmela" of saints and sadhus; to the Westerners it is an empty first class compartment with plenty of room for all.

Preaching has become the practice of many. Why?

A sermon is food for others and one doesn't worry whether it is well-cooked or not and whether it is needed or not.

Why are modern wedding rings lighter than the old ones?

Because part of the gold is given to the government to save the married life of drunkards.

Why do we worship a cow and not a buffalo though both serve the purpose of providing milk?

When cows climbed the altars of worship, buffaloes were unknown. Worship is a hoary sentiment and cows are ancient milk pots.

What is economy?

Creating a surplus from a deficit.

Is there anything else of importance in this world except gold?

The way of getting it and its use afterwards.

We are men of peace!

Indeed! We send millions to their peaceful graves at regular intervals.

✓ *India: What can it give to the world?*

The philosophy of starving without struggling.

Who introduced the system of sending Christmas and New Year cards?

Printers who wanted business. Good wishes do good business in this world of greed and hatred.

Are you fond of reading autobiographies of prominent leaders like Gandhiji and Nehru?

The biographies of millions are their autobiographies. What's new in that to read?

PERSONAL

Honestly, tell me what would you do if all the women on this earth disappeared?

I would disappear with them. Who wants to lose all the colour and live with the brutes!

Why don't you write degrees after your name?

The only degrees I get is when I run up a temperature.

What do you do when your pockets are full?

I spend but that is such a rare event.

What are the feelings of a person after the first kiss?

You should tell me. My first kiss is many years old and has grown whiskers by now.

What is the capacity of your stomach?

I have digested the abuse of 60,000 film people for twenty-five years.

What is your laughing volume?

Both in anger and joy you can hear me a mile away. I am not a miser.

Are you fastidious about your clothes?

I was once but now my paunch gives a bad reputation to the tailor.

Which of the animals do you wish most for a pet?

My first choice is dogs. The second is women

What were your best subjects in school?

Cricket and loafing! I always stood first in these two subjects.

Which would you prefer, money or life, when you are at the point of a pistol?

The pistol!

Have you got faith in God?

Do you think I have faith in film producers?

Whom do you like more: the full moon or a beautiful woman?

I like the moon. She doesn't scorch you.

How old are your spirits?

As fresh as your needs!

✓ *By the way have you any children?*

What do you think I have been doing all these years in this tropical country?

Do you hope to go to heaven?

I refuse to I shall disqualify myself sufficiently before the final event.

Are you an orator?

Only when in a temper! Otherwise I don't think it is worth wasting words.

What will you do if you become a millionaire?

This is one problem I shall never have to bother about

Which is the most precious secret that you harbour in your heart?

It is temperamentally impossible for me to nurse a secret. Even the ulcer which I had I got removed.

What is your position in the film industry?

To the producers a menace, to the workers a solace, to the film girls a caress and to myself a duress

What is your private life?

It is as public as it could be. The rest must be screened to save the world a blush.

What do you do when you get disgusted?

I don't moon and mope. I shout and thunder in an attempt to adjust things to suit me.

Do you go through the little ceremony of thanking God whilst you take your meals?

I thank my wife for the meals and God for the wife

Whom do you fear in this world?

Myself! I often don't know what I shall do next.

What sort of friends do you like: smokers, snuffers, drunkards or gamblers?

Barkers on four legs. "Friends" with two legs stab you in the back

Are you proud of your popularity Mr. Patel? You are discussed in cafes, cinemas, parks and refugee camps!

But not in my bank!

When were you down to your last pie?

Approximately 14,600 times, that is twice a day for 20 years.

If anybody gives you a slap what will you do?

Just hit back. I don't wish to be mistaken for Gandhiji and thus prejudice our saint's reputation for non-violence.

Do you believe in palmistry?

According to the lines on my hand I should have been the Viceroy of India but I am still a struggling journalist.

Are you a chip of the old block?

My old block is worth millions, the chip has hardly any chips.

What would you do if a girl forcibly kisses you?

When some one does that I shall tell you what I did.

Who is the second greatest egotist in India?

I am the first. An egotist does not admit a second one.

Were you the first to receive when God distributed sense?

My readers must have been the first. As I answer their questions, I come after them.

What would you call a woman who calls you a 'naughty boy'?

She is asking for trouble.

Are you punctual about dates, appointments and so on?

I have quite a temper in this field with the result that even women don't keep me waiting. They call me a minute-monster.

Can character really be deduced from handwriting?

My handwriting is very good but ask the film producers what they think of me.

Have you ever suffered from misfortune?

Which one do you want me to relate?

How would you like to play your part in a game of love?

Love is not a game, it is a race for life and I would like to be at the winning post.

I hope I am right in my conclusion about you that you take delight in the abuses of the film producers?

I make them pay for their odd luxury of abusing me and they pay well. Everything is expensive these days, including abuse.

What does the world owe you?

All the good things of the world and a generous wink at my blunders.

Have you got any girl friend?

People who sleep with their brains often sleep alone.

Can you tell me why other journalists call you a liar?

Lying is an art which only intellectuals can practise.

What is your age?

Mind and environment decide a man's age. Old with the experienced and youthful with the young, a man's age is what he extracts from his company.

What would you do if the producers abused you in a language you did not know?

They do and in a language I know too well. That is the kick I get out of life.

Why don't you become an actor yourself?

I am afraid of the producers constantly casting me as a villain and ruining what little reputation I have as a critic.

Is there anyone on earth who is proud of you?

I have five dogs. They put their tails up in sheer arrogance when they walk beside me.

Have you got any arm in life?

I have made bread the bull's-eye but miss the aim many a time

If you are asked to donate your blood, would you?

My donation would be brain not blood. People give their best as a donation. Only those give blood who have nothing better to give.

What is your aim in living in this selfish world?

Making the selfish world yield something for myself. It is a poison killing poison system.

What is the difference between you and a cynic?

I fight and struggle to change things. A cynic waits for others to do it

Why does each and every contemporary of yours call you a 'blackmailer'?

That is a matter of personal devotion and popularity.

What appeals to you more—a woman in tears or a woman in smiles?

I love smiles Smiles are rare in these days with millions in tears.

Enumerate the types of people you dislike?

I don't dislike human beings. I dislike their acts.

The other day some one compared you with Goldsmith. How do you like the idea?

I like the 'gold' part of it because I have been a smith all my life.

Have you ever spoken with your eyes?

Yes, when I have seen an eyefull and been struck dumb.

Of all countries in the world which do you like the best and why?

I like India in spite of its bits because I am a son of the soil.

Have you ever been behind the prison bars?

Not yet! My sins have not been crimes.

Who excels in wit Baburao Patel or George Bernard Shaw?

Of course, Shaw! He has a bigger bank balance.

I strongly oppose Shakespeare's quotation, "Face is the index of man". Will you agree with me?

Absolutely, seeing that producers always read my face wrongly.

What do you do when your pockets are empty?

I work. And seeing that I work always the pockets seem to provide a continuous incentive. Empty pockets seem to be a national malady with Indians.

Are you proud of yourself, Mr. Patel?

Pride is a pastime of idle hours. I have to work every minute.

What are the best years of your life?

Those which I didn't have yet.

Why do you keep a girl secretary to assist you in your work?

My girl secretary is my wife and I can't ask why.

Which hour of the day is most precious to you?

The one which visitors take.

When have you been susceptible to a fortune-teller's predictions?

All my life! The only good fortune I get is the rosy picture which fortune-tellers always paint for me. Believing the fortune-tellers is a good method of self-hypnosis for continued optimism. When one man's predictions run out, I see another and he gives me a fresh lease of hope and optimism. And to save the reputation of these astrologers, I work and work hard and thus get a living with the eternal hope that one day I am going to be all that these glib liars tell me.

Have you ever regretted being born a man?

Life is one long regret but in this world of men being a man is a lesser misfortune.

What do your neighbours think of you?

They have stopped thinking as I do all the thinking for them.

What have you saved for your rainy days?

The respect of the producers who hate me more than they love themselves.

Do you think twice before you reply?

A hundred times, son, because with the words I sow I reap a living.

Which was the year in which the world was created?

In my case 1904.

How did you build your personality?

I worked hard 27 years, 12 hours a day.

In journalism which is better: editing a newspaper or a 'views paper' as yours?

Ask the journalists who do journalism. I merely write for a living. I have never bothered about the 'ism' of my job.

If you are asked to leave this world with one precious thing, what would you take?

The goodwill of those who misunderstood me all my life

I acknowledge you as a staunch nationalist. But how is it you still cling to the European dress?

The European dress is a dress of freedom. It is designed by free people for all freedoms.

One thing I have noticed in you is that you pretend to be not rich. Why is it so? What is the advantage?

The advantage of being truthful.

Why do most men throw on you bricks and only a few bouquets?

Those bricks have straws of jealousy and frustration and they don't hurt.

What sort appeals to you more: the plain goods or the stunning variety of females?

Being philosophic by temperament I like the plain well made goods.

Have you got children?

They were children once. Today they are my parents.

In which circle is your name widely known?

In the large circle of my film family. Every film man curses me as he curses his bad luck.

What has made you so witty?

When you look at bread and can't get it, you become witty and humorous to cheat your own stomach.

Strictly between ourselves, have you kissed any lady during your recent visit to America? Don't be shy!

Oh no, I am not. Quite a couple of hundred American ladies, my friends' wives, daughters, sisters or mothers, kissed us all good-bye.

At what age do you intend retiring from active service?

With the present cost of living dying in harness seems to be the only prospect.

Should I bank on your intelligence?

You spend on it and I'll do the banking.

Who is the gentleman who has the honour of being called your 'guru'?

Orphans have no "gurus" (teachers). Life is their book and poverty their incentive

What is your boiling point?

My mother-in-law!

How popular are you?

I am spotted even in the cloak rooms of our cinemas—a wrong place to blush.

Whose handwriting is better yours or mine?

Mine, because people buy what I write.

Do you like to be on a lonely island with a "sweet little thing"?

Don't tempt me with such questions. I am reading religious books these days

Have you ever walked in your sleep?

I don't have to. My wife sleeps in the same room

How many good men are there in this world?

I am but no one knows about it.

Are you in favour of offering animal sacrifice to God?

With a tax on chicken and mutton, all the birds and animals I can get I offer to myself and leave only flowers for God.

You seem to be an opportunist?

But they call me a journalist these days.

Mr. Patel, can you lend your brains?

I sell it by bits. No lending business, after what Shakespeare said about borrowing and lending.

Can a wife open her husband's letters?

My wife does—over 16,000 every month.

From your replies to the readers' queries, I have discovered that you are a great poet! Will you kindly and confidentially tell me what is responsible for this—domestic felicity or business inspiration?

My grocer who punctually calls on the first of every month. Keep this confidential.

Who is your master?

My work!

It is a wonder you never get tired of replying to questions?

That's getting tired of bread.

In what school did you learn your wit and humour?

In the school of struggle and suffering. People often laugh in desperation when they can't bear any more.

Why is it that people abuse you?

There is no why to an abuse. It is the poison that your neighbour vomits and the bitterness of it compels you to move—usually towards greater success.

What is your private life like—may I know please?

It is almost a public affair with books, women and cigarettes as the main items of the day's menu. The first one provides me with hot thought, the

second one with cold sighs and the last one with dry cough. I don't drink, though "friends" call me a drunkard.

What things can your own life teach us?

That you can make up the deficiencies of a school education by a lot of hard work and study. That after a number of failures, one can still succeed in life. That starvation only helps one to look at life more generously. That being considered "dangerous" is also a useful reputation to cash opportunities in life. That if you wish to mock at the world, you must permit the world to have a few laughs at you. That you can remain exclusive to the point of being called a snob and yet be popular in a crowd if you possess a disarming smile. That the little mechanism known as a watch runs only in one direction and doesn't look back. What is therefore lost on its dial can never be reclaimed in life. That work and more work and still more work can only solve the numerous problems of life.

Omar Khayyam was inspired by a 'book of verse', a 'jug of wine' and a 'thou'. Is your source of inspiration similar to this?

My thou is verse and wine combined—a song that turns the bedroom into a paradise.

Are you a modest man?

I began as one but it didn't pay.

What has been the battle-cry through all your tempestuous life?

Bread for me, bread for the family, bread for today, bread for tomorrow! It has been bread—morn, noon and night.

I discover a philosopher in you in the last few months. What is the change attributed to?

Age which makes even a bearded goat look wise.

What is the secret behind your inordinate optimism?

There is no secret. I was born with a smile which the world mistakes for a mock.

When do you eat your own words?

I spit words, my rivals eat them.

When people abuse you, I don't listen or reply to them as I know, 'silence is the best reply to fools'.

Abuse is a compliment in which words are misused. People don't abuse all and sundry.

What type of clothes can't you stand on girls?

I am not hard to please if the girls are good-looking.

How do you feel when people compare you with George Bernard Shaw?

I miss the bluff, the beard and the bank balance.

Have you any English friend?

Hundreds! But as friends they cease to have a specific nationality.

Suppose you are asked to select either a princess or half the kingdom—what will you do?

I will take the princess. The kingdom will come with her.

Are you a friend of the princes or the paupers?

I dislike both as members of the same lazy family. I like workers—rich or poor.

Are you also one of those men who stare at girls and women in the streets?

I like to look at beautiful women I have no time to stare and embarrass them.

Would you like your children to be critics?

I would but they stand before the mirror and flatter my work in bed. How can such people be critics? A critic begins with himself first.

Which do you prefer the fruits of labour or the gifts of fortune?

I am denied both. I have to go up the hill and pick up mountain berries Fruits are too big for my fortune.

POLITICS

Do royal titles impress you?

Yes, as ingenious inventions which created barriers between man and man and sowed the first seeds of revolution.

What is the difference between Indian democracy and American democracy?

American democracy is one long dollar dance. The Indian one is an endless beggar's opera.

Who rules the world between fools and politicians?

Fools rule the world by electing politicians to misrule it

Socialists say that socialism is the panacea for all ills; then what is Communism?

Panacea for Socialism!

What does the Gateway of India Indicate?

The history of the British boot—the way it walked in and out.

Define capitalism?

The bread of the poor rotting in the reservoirs of the rich.

What are the assets and liabilities left by Mahatmaji to India?

Freedom is the asset we enjoy while his virtue is a liability we can't meet.

Do you believe in Ram Rajya?

I don't. It is too antiquated a mode of life with monkeys becoming gods and women roasted in fire. In the present times we use monkeys for rejuvenation and women as bus conductors.

What will be the fate of India if the present growth of population is not checked?

We shall have to build houses on the Himalayas and become Eskimos of the East.

What, in your opinion, can be the best memorial to Gandhiji?

Forget him and consign him to our pantheon of gods instead of using and misusing his name to justify all the conflicts between the grain and the bullet.

Now that India is free, what should be the programme of the Congress?

Gandhiji took the programme with him and didn't even leave behind a copy for our ministers.

Can you explain why Chiang lost China?

The Chinese did not like hot-dogs and dough nuts. They preferred sauerkraut and vodka.

What is your opinion of Lord Mountbatten?

The quickest and most competent surgeon, India ever had. He cut the country into bits under the anesthesia of freedom.

What should we do to some of our leaders who are always anxious to face the camera?

Present them with pocket mirrors so that our eyes are at least saved the strain.

Which is more sacred to us: Porbandar or Rajghat?

They are the two ends of the same cradle. It is the career in between that has given the nation its altar

What are the aims and objects of Uncle Sam's Marshall Aid?

Marshall Aid is an export indent for Uncle Sam's goods.

According to the Russians: "Profit is legalised robbery" What is your opinion?

The present-day Russians have legalised robbery and called it Communism.

Do you agree that politics makes the common man die of hunger?

I have seen people with full stomachs die of politics. The knife brought both the blood and the bread out at once

Do you think the U.N.O. will succeed where the League of Nations failed in maintaining peace and security in the world?

The U.N.O. is a circus where different clowns perform by mocking at one another. It is an expensive entertainment though.

Is politics a game or a gamble?

It is guerrilla warfare.

What is the position of royalty in free India?

Gentlemen at large with a black past and a blank future.

Wendell Wilkie spoke of 'One World'. It is generally felt that there are two worlds, Oriental and Occidental. Recently Smuts talked of three worlds. In fact how many worlds are there?

There are as many worlds as there are politicians. In fact, politicians seem to be the direct competitors of God in creation.

Can peace continue to prevail in a family where two brothers belong to two different political parties?

Sceptres and nations have been brought to dust by politics. What's a little family!

Can you say where the Socialists and Communists differ?

The Communists want a red revolution while the Socialists want a pink one.

Who must be the founder of goondaism in India?

Must be a politician who envied power in other hands.

What is civilization?

The Atom Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; lying at the U.N.O.; three million dying of famine in Bengal; the Arab-Jewish tussle; murder of Gandhiji and Bernadotte, everything else but peace for the human being.

Who is a soap box orator?

A socialist who blows bubbles into the face of his audience.

Do religious fanaticism and power politics go hand in hand?

Religion has always been a handmaid of power, except in Russia where they rooted out religion and replaced it with bread.

When are politicians polite?

Before the elections they are irresistibly affable

No lawyers, no quarrels, no doctors, no diseases, no priests, no superstitious beliefs; no middlemen, no high prices?

No politicians, no nothing!

Is it possible for all Indians to speak one language and embrace one religion?

India will then cease to be a secular state and our present ministers would be unemployed.

Are we allowed to kill a national enemy?

The individual has no right to kill. It is a state's privilege

Do you think the U.N.O. will succeed in bringing peace to this world?

No! It was, I guess, not even intended for peace. It seems to be an organization for spying on one another's armament piles.

On Jaipur Congress 65 lakhs of rupees were wasted in pomp and show. Was it a party conference or a tamasha?

It was the victors' vanity fair with the rich on the sofas and the poor on the tent tops. All that money could have built quite a few houses for the homeless poor.

How far is it sensible to raise temples in the name of Gandhi?

We have enough temples and gods already to make our life miserable. The best memorial to Gandhiji would be a Gandhi hospital in every town and village of India where the poor can be relieved of pain and suffering

Why is Gandhiji's fund not being collected as fast as that of Kasturba's?

When Kasturba died Gandhiji was living. With Gandhiji dead the nation has lost its conscience. Gods get merely the flowers while profits go to the priests.

What is the difference between the rich and the poor in free India?

The poor are the voters and the rich remain the looters.

What is the easiest way you suggest to become a rich and popular man?

There are three ways of becoming rich: birth in a golden cradle; work hard and save or be a black-marketeer. But to be popular, there is only one way: serve the people. You can't be both rich and popular in these days with millions starving.

What does Indian democracy lack?

Just democracy! The rest of the tricks we have inherited.

Have you any faith in the U.N.O.?

Full faith in its failure!

When is democracy undesirable?

When it is doled out by a power-crazy clique however noble their general ideals.

What is a fair deal in politics?

That is one field in which you never have a fair deal.

What are the political leaders generally fond of?

Politics and power! And more politics and more power! It is an endless thirst.

Should women take part in politics?

They should, to prevent our politicians from straying. Do you know that we find many doctors in their rooms because of the nurses and not because of the patients?

Why are spiders not caught in their own webs?

Only politicians fall in their own traps.

We hear thousands of rupees being spent on statues. What's the use? Can't that money be utilized for the poor and starving?

In a country like India, the poor and starving are endless and eternal and we cannot but immortalize the memory of politicians in bronze and marble for bequeathing to us this endless queue of hungry people through ages

Why don't you become a political leader?

Perish the thought! Haven't we enough murderers let loose in this ancient land of Buddha and Gandhiji?

What happens when ethics begin to intrude on politics?

We pay for the bullets that kill us.

If there is no poor, there will be no rich. What will be there then?

The Communist!

What do you think of the new Jewish state of Israel?

It deprives the Jews of their universality and turns them into big frogs in a small well. With the establishment of Israel, the Jew loses his world citizenship.

What are the rights and privileges, duties and responsibilities of a political party in power?

The party has all the rights and privileges but the duties and responsibilities are thrust on the people.

Define in your own words what is democracy?

It is a circus of men and brutes, all harnessed together for a popular performance.

What is U.N.O.?

An international gymnasium for training vocal cords.

Is it right on the part of students to enter politics?

It is utterly wrong for students to meddle with politics at an age which should be entirely devoted to education. Politics is a game for mature minds and not for overgrown school boys.

Do politicians have a sense of humour?

People who are self-righteous and hyper-sensitive to criticism miss the relaxation of humour.

Is it inadvisable to write about politics?

If you write against the party in power you invite trouble. Politicians in power don't like criticism.

Our white-capped leaders proclaim from house tops that India has got a secular government. Will you please tell me who asked for a secular government?

No one! That's why we have it Even God doesn't give us what we ask for. Then what can you expect of politicians?

Must we use our freedom carefully?

Our ministers are already doling it out as medicine these days—in small doses

What are morals in the hands of a Communist?

One more argument for revolution.

I think that modern politicians are penny wise and pound foolish?

The pity is that both the penny and the pound belong to the people

Can you suggest some work for which no capital is necessary and which at the same time will bring a good return?

Be a politician. You need only a good throat.

What is your opinion about the doctrine of non-violence?

It is a religion to the individual but suicide for a nation.

Why is red used for danger?

Probably because it is the colour Communists like.

Which can avert war—U.N.O or Atom Bomb?

Nothing can avert war. The U.N.O. is a camouflage for talking and misleading while the Atom Bomb is a direct incentive. The white man's

greed for power will ultimately destroy the world unless the white man himself is destroyed.

What do you think about the daughters of Indian ambassadors abroad? Do you think they serve any useful purpose?

They pose for photographs, popularize Indian saris and make a mess of state politics.

What is your opinion about the growing tendency to rename cities and streets?

Early hysteria of freedom!

When shall commercial interest be patriotic?

When the State gets into business.

Would you like to go to U.N.O. as an Indian delegate?

I have no words to waste. I can still sell them.

Whom do you prefer: an educated and intelligent city man or illiterate but trusting villager?

An intelligent man becomes a socialist while an illiterate villager remains a Congress voter.

What is the most acceptable form of hypocrisy?

Politics, in which words are hollow and smiles are flat.

Why is India so utterly friendless in the international field?

A nation in the infancy of its freedom waves its ideals with childish enthusiasm which old sinners don't relish.

What is meant by democracy?

Democracy has different meanings in different climes. It is a dollar dance in America, Marshall Plan in Europe, McArthur in Japan and white-capism in India.

If capitalism is to be rooted out from India, what will the Birlas and Dalmias do?

They will capitalize even Communism and still be in the forefront of events

Would Gandhiji have been so popular had he died a natural death?

The manner of Gandhiji's death put the martyr's crown on his great life and gave his death the immortal significance of a new birth.

How is 'goondaism' related to politics?

Politics is licensed goondaism.

Did Indians learn a lesson from Gandhiji's simplicity?

Oh yes! They gave him his scanty costume and proved to him that his simplicity has been the fashion of millions for centuries.

Is prohibition good ethics?

Yes, but bad economics

Differentiate between Gandhiji and Jinnah?

Gandhiji was the father of humanity, Jinnah the father of Muslims

What is the real secret of Russia's toughness?

The hunger of millions all over the world.

Had Gandhiji any personality?

In his face was the hunger and anguish of millions.

A man whose face reflected millions must be having a divine personality.

What are the things which we Indians have learnt from the Britishers during 200 years of rule in India?

They have taught us communal hatred, petty jealousies and corruption. The British never brought their racial virtues to India. They planted only their colonial vices.

What are the main points of difference between Socialism and Communism?

Socialism is a shivering philosophy half-way between Capitalism and Communism. It is scared of the red future and looks at the purple past with regret.

If you will give a hard kick on the stomach of a hungry man, will his appetite increase or subside?

He will see red. That is how we are creating Communists, with kicks on hungry stomachs.

What is the difference between a white khaddar cap and a red cap?

The white khaddar cap, because of its inherent non-violence, often gets dyed in its own blood.

Is politics a game?

And what a game with every hit below the belt!

In view of your wide popularity why don't you become a politician?

I am too moral to be a successful politician and too immoral to be a good one.

Will U.N.O. be able to maintain stable peace throughout the world or will it have the same fate as the League of Nations had?

The U.N.O is a mock show to provide the power politicians of the world a place to vomit their conscience and then go home and pursue their greed. Don't a number of people go to church and then come home and rob their neighbour? The U.N.O. is the church for politicians. It will preach peace but never deliver it.

Why are politicians seldom good-looking?

Dirty work and dirty thoughts don't create handsome faces

Is honesty in politics a virtue?

A virtue that sometimes costs life

Who can raise a house on sand?

The Jews have built a whole city on sand in Palestine.

Do you think these popular ministers are actually popular?

No minister can be completely popular as ruling is a thankless job

How long should our Nehru work for us day in and day out?

Till he is taken to Rajghat to commune with his Master. Nehru is not a politician, he is just a patriot and patriots work for their country even after death

What is the meaning of veto in the U.N.O?

It is an international rat-trap for catching the rat and drowning it

Why are politicians fond of publicity?

Politicians can live for days without food but not a minute without publicity.

What is your opinion about the future of U.N.O?

Do you know the famous story of a man who saved himself by lying as if dead when he met a bear? Well, the Bear is out hunting now.

Is politics a profession or a hobby?

It is a vice.

Can it be said that Britain quitted India in a fit of conscience?

Rulers have no conscience. The British went out because they couldn't hold India any longer.

What is the difference between democracy and republic?

A republic is a French muddle while democracy is an American mess.

In India, what is the line of demarcation between a lawyer and a politician?

When the lawyer starts searching for glamour and garlands he becomes a politician.

Is there no God in Russia?

There is. His name is Stalin.

Fifty years hence suppose a teacher asks a boy, "Who was Gandhiji", what reply do you expect him to give?

India's greatest revolutionary! He prepared Indians for freedom but they mistook it for license. He died three years before he was actually killed and his followers buried his memory in temples and

chanted his name only when in political distress.
They murdered even his memory.

How much time do you think it will take to establish economic stability in India?

We have been ruthlessly robbed by the British and it will take a very long time before we are able to find two daily meals for millions of hungry souls.

What is a man's life without the co-operation of his wife?

He usually becomes a politician to ruin other homes.

Can you predict India's fate in the near future and far as years go by?

Keep your eyes glued to the Khyber Pass. India's future may travel through it.

Give me an example of a thought that would move a mountain?

Pakistan! It moved the Khyber Pass miles away from us.

Will anybody marry in India and spend his honeymoon in Pakistan?

If he does he will lose the honey and keep waving the moon all his life

What happened to the government's idea of sending black marketeers for a donkey ride?

Not enough donkeys to go round.

Is the earth's centre of gravity at: The Kremlin, the White House or No. 10. Downing Street?

The Kremlin, from which is trickling the lava that is discolouring the crust of our earth. Watch out for the final explosion

Differentiate a Congressite from a Socialist?

One has the bone, the other is barking for it. Both have the same pedigree

What is your opinion, as an impartial critic, about an average free Indian?

A somnambulist walking in the dark dawn of freedom groping for food

If lawyers are debarred from politics, what will happen?

- We shall have less talk and more work.

Do you think freedom has improved the lot of the common man?

Of course it has. Now he dies a citizen of a free country be it from starvation, pestilence or prohibition. Isn't that better than death under the British boot?

What is political ambition?

Organize workers and expect them not to be Communists.

What is an election?

Mass suicide in which stupid crowds elect for their own funeral a few crazy guys as pall bearers.

Why don't you think of Russia as an ideal state?

An ideal state does not interfere with the lives of other people.

How will you define diplomacy?

Deep, low and messy.

What is fashion and what is dandyism?

The white cap is fashion in the streets but dandyism in the ministerial circles.

What do you know of politics?

That my bread is embittered and sleep disturbed. Isn't that enough knowledge of politics?

Where is Russia?

All over the world, in prison and underground, entrenched in hungry stomachs and fanatic minds.

What is prohibition?

A grand funeral of the teetotallers with drunkards as pall bearers.

Who shall ascend to heaven?

None but the dead go to heaven if at all there is a place like that, free of politics.

Can an actor become a politician?

No! But politicians make good actors.

How are wars made?

With guns of greed and bullets of power.

Do you like spinning?

I consider it a waste of time to do some clumsy spinning in a machine age. It can, however, be practised as a hobby or be useful for political showmanship.

Which is fair weather for politics?

When there is storm in the hostile camp.

Can the clash of political doctrines be considered a disaster?

Every clash is an opportunity, every conflict a preamble of new creation.

Why should we have faith in God?

To escape from politicians who have burnt our homes to build their thrones.

Is Gandhiji's sermon of non-violence suited to our age? If not, why?

Because this is an age of brutes who have made strength an instrument of greed and ambition.

What is the difference between democracy and hypocrisy?

Democracy is the hypocrisy of the people that they are ruling themselves.

Why don't Communists believe in God?

Because in God's world millions die of starvation.

What is a smile to a politician?

A short punctuation to his dirty designs.

What particular use is the U.N O. which has hardly any power to enforce its sanctions?

The human being is a funny creature. He needs noise for all his acts. He screams when he first slips into this world. He plays a band when he takes a woman to bed and needs music when going to the grave, as if the dead can hear. He uses tom toms for war and music for his prayers. Can he therefore escape a noisy carnival pretending to forge peace?

Which is the best use to which a rotten egg can be put?

Take it to the nearest political meeting.

What makes one a leader?

A million dumb followers.

What is our Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to you?

The best map-maker we have had in centuries. The last one was King Ramchandra of Ayodhya and he is worshipped as a god today.

AMERICA IN 1948

What do you think would be the ultimate form of the American bathing costume?

A transparent fig leaf made of plastic.

What did you think of the Statue of Liberty when in America?

That is the most outraged woman I have seen in the world. Though she symbolizes liberty, equality etc., she has no liberty. Thousands take all kinds of liberties with her during the day and even during the night she has to go to bed with a couple of policemen.

Did you ever show your generosity to any American beggar?

Quite often but even the beggars there need a rupee to smile.

Are there poor people in America too?

Even the golden cupola of a temple throws a dark shadow in spite of all the gold in it and the God beneath it.

Did you dash against any divorced actress while in America?

I had to search for a married one.

What is the difference between the Indian and the American philosophy of life and love?

The American loves and lives, the Indian loves and dies, expecting to be born again.

Is 'lynching' in America a sign of democracy?

White democracy! Democracy also has different shades, each shade distinct from the other.

In your opinion, is U.S.A. a democracy in the true sense of the word?

Not at all! Democracy is merely an argument in the U.S.A. It is a country where the rich exploit the poor as heartlessly as anywhere else. In many of the so-called democratic states of America, the Negroes are not allowed to walk on the pavements with white men, nor travel in white men's buses, nor enter white men's hotels and restaurants nor attend white men's cinema shows nor even use white men's taxis. They are segregated miles away from the main town, in filthy and disease-ridden areas. In the state of Georgia, very recently an American Negro was shot dead by white men because he exercised his democratic right to vote. Quite a few Negroes are lynched every year because they commit the unpardonable crime of being seen with white women. Even the Negro graveyards are located miles and miles away from the white men's resting places for fear of the black colour percolating through the earth and staining the white bodies lying in state. The Red Indians, over 400,000 of whom are still living in America, are treated worse than the Negroes. They are compelled to live in desert reservations where nothing grows except tuberculosis. They are permitted sheep farming

without providing grazing grounds. Their artistic talent is mercilessly exploited for making little silver trinkets which are sold as expensive souvenirs to tourists. Their women are often raped by white men. The Red Indians have no voting rights even.

How did you like America? Is it God's own country as they make it out to be?

It is a country where the Church is an industry with community chests full of dollars and God residing in palatial mansions. The numerous sects compete with one another in building churches and even small towns have a dozen beautiful churches. The young people sleep on Church Sundays till lunch hour and expect the old ones to go to Church but as there are no old ones in America (you can't call anyone old even at 75) the Churches get no attendance. People make up for this sin by contributing lavishly to the Church funds and thus provide the priesthood with a comfortable living. The main religious divisions are: Baptists, Catholics, Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodists, Presbyterians, Jews, with innumerable "assemblies of God" and "Churches of Christ" apart from countless subdivisions of the main sects. God is well advertised in America but the Atom Bomb is also being made more dangerous.

What was your most interesting experience in America?

I saw people trading in death—people selling graves and offering their services as funeral directors to dispose of the human body. Americans pay for both the items by instalments while they live. If an American doesn't buy his grave during his lifetime, his dead body gets a pauper's burial and

that is considered a social stigma. Even in death these guys observe social differences. And the citizens of this democracy laugh at the caste system in India while they themselves have separate graveyards for the white Americans and Negroes.

Man has failed to secure world peace Don't you think woman by her very nature is best suited for the job?

If you meet the modern American woman the present world will look a paradise with man as its only angel.

American ladies are crazy about Negroes How do you account for this?

Where did you get that? It sounds like the well-nursed myth about Parisian women being mad about Indians. There is nothing in common between the white American woman and the Negro At best they hate each other.

Is it oil alone that moulds the destinies of nations?

It has made Uncle Sam the godfather of the world.

What did you like most in America?

The man in the street! He is a friendly soul so long as you are not a Negro.

Are the American women more beautiful than the Indian ones?

I do not think so, though they weigh more with enough to eat and drink. Beauty is a product of long culture and America is too young a nation to have any culture or racial characteristics. So far it has been a dumping ground for refuse and refugees from other countries.

What is your opinion of the average Yankee man and woman?

Good friendly folks, living for fun and dying for dollars

What impressed you most in the dollar land?

The amount of food they burn and waste to keep the prices up The Yankees throw out food and live on dollars.

How do you find the behaviour of Americans towards Indians?

The average white American is a well-behaved person till a Negro appears on the horizon. So long as the Indian is not mistaken for a Negro, there is always a smile for every Indian.

When will our films be seen with admiration in America?

Only when Indians are shown as riding on tigers, sleeping on elephants, climbing ropes and dressed in diamonds

Did you find slums and beggars in America on your recent tour please?

Plenty! The dollar land has its disgraceful side like any other country I have seen the poor sleeping on pavements after being driven out of public gardens

What can you say about the moral life of the Americans after your own experiences there?

Americans are as moral or immoral as we are or for that matter any other people are. Human nature hardly varies in this respect.

Can you give your impressions on marriages in U.S.A.?

Honey, money and alimony.

When you visited U.S.A. last time did you go to Reno the 'home of divorce and gambling'?

I did and saw some pretty women with the ugly divorce look in their eyes and a crowd of crazy men gambling their lives away. It is a town where our white-capped ministers will die with their eyes bulging.

Which is the land of plenty in this world?

America! They have plenty to eat and plenty to burn.

What do the Americans appreciate in us the most?

The beautiful saris of our women.

Were there mosquitoes in America?

Yes! They are called waiters, bell-boys, elevator boys, receptionists etc.

Are the Yankees fond of horse racing?

Yankees are great gamblers. They speculate even on the Communists.

Did you wear your dhotie during your sojourn in the United States of America?

I did so in my room but the American 'dhobie' called it a man's saree. After that description, I didn't like my sex to be misunderstood in public.

What are your impressions of American customs and habits?

Americans have no customs and habits. They have fashions and foibles.

Describe an average American?

A good hearted person worried about the next week-end holiday.

Is divorce a disease in America?

They use it as a cure for marriage.
